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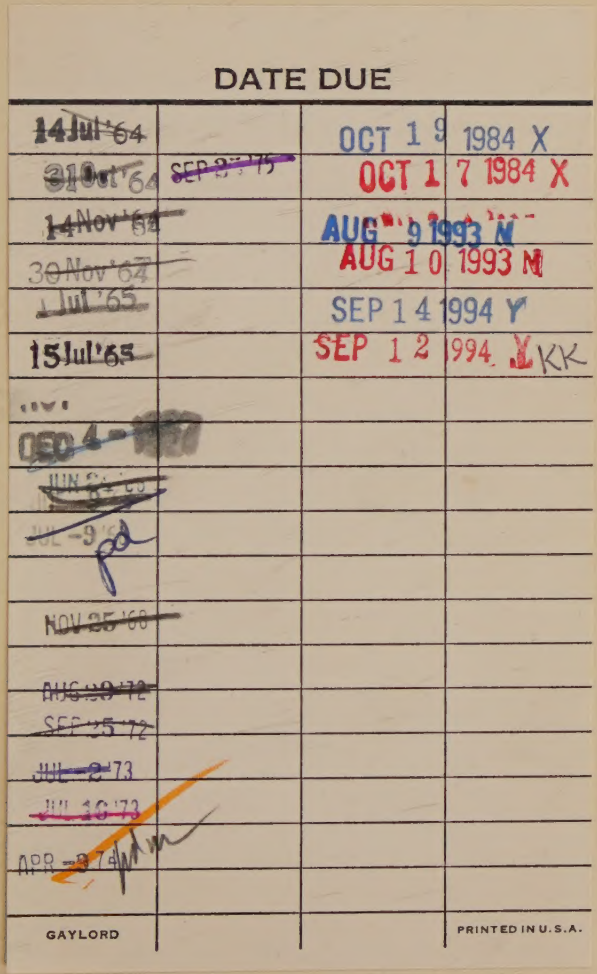
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THE PLOTS OF OLD ENGLISH PLAYS.

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ENLARGED EDITION

THE PLOTS OF SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS OLD ENGLISH PLAYS

WITH INDEX OF THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

BY

HENRY GREY,

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"An Epitome of the Bible," "The Classics for the Million," "A Key to the Waverley Novels," "A Bird's-Eye View of English Literature," "Trowel, Chisel, and Brush," "Resting Without Rusting," "Science Notes," "For Conversation with the Deaf," "Sixty-five Years' Reminiscences," etc.

649

SECOND THOUSAND.

LONDON:

SWAN SONNENSCHEIN & CO., LIM.

1900.

"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players."

As You Like It.

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PREFACE

FROM the days of ancient Greece and Rome to the present time no form of Literature has so clearly portrayed the personal characteristics of the people of different countries, or the ideas and habits of the period in which they lived, as the Drama; and it is thought that the following outlines of some of the most celebrated Old English Plays (not including Shakespeare's, which Charles Lamb epitomised) may create the desire for a fuller acquaintance with their vigorous style, and their vivid pictures of the manifold workings of the human heart and intellect.

H. G.

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THE PLOTS OF
SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS
OLD ENGLISH PLAYS.

TAMBURLAINE THE GREAT.

(*PART THE FIRST.*)

By CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE; written 1588.

Principal Characters.

MYCETES, *King of Persia.*
COSROE, *his brother.*
ORTYGIUS, CENEUS, MEANDER, MENAPHON, THERIDAMAS, } *Persian lords and captains.*
TAMBURLAINE, *a Scythian shepherd.*
TECHELLES, USUMCASANE, } *his followers.*
BAJAZETH, *Emperor of the Turks.*
KING OF ARABIA.
KING OF FEZ.
KING OF MOROCCO.
KING OF ALGIERS.
SOLDAN OF EGYPT.
GOVERNOR OF DAMASCUS.
AGYDAS, MAGNETES, } *Median lords.*
CAPOLIN, *an Egyptian captain.*
PHILEMUS, *a messenger.*
ZENOCRATE, *daughter of the Soldan.*
ANIPPE, *her maid.*
ZABINA, *wife of Bajazeth.*
EBEA, *her maid.*
VIRGINS OF DAMASCUS.

Period, 1363-1402. *Localities: Persia, Turkey, Egypt, and Syria.*

MYCETES, who is despised by his brother and courtiers, despatches Theridamas with a thousand horse to bring captive to Persepolis the Scythian chief Tamburlaine, who robs his merchants, and aspires to be monarch of the East; and in the following scene Cosroe is offered the crown, in the name of the Persian nobles and Median captains, with the title of Emperor of Asia. Meanwhile Tamburlaine has intercepted Zenocrate, on her journey from Media to Memphis, laden with presents for her betrothed, and is promising to make her an Empress, if

she will marry him, when a soldier announces the arrival of Theridamas and his richly-accoutred troopers. Restraining his followers' eagerness to fight them, Tamburlaine parleys with their captain, and persuades him to be the sharer of his ambitious schemes of conquest, at the same time appropriating Zenocrate and her retinue.

Cosroe, having started to join Theridamas, is urged by his followers to seek the valiant Scythian's aid in usurping his brother's throne, and Mycetes, supported by Meander, advances with an unwilling army against them. Tamburlaine encounters him on the battle-field hiding his crown, and then, pretending to accept Cosroe's offer to make him regent of Persia, plots with Theridamas and Techelles to win the kingdom for himself. A contest ensues, in which Cosroe is wounded, and Tamburlaine, taking the crown, puts it on, and is proclaimed by all King of Persia.

The Emperor Bajazeth, hearing of Tamburlaine's exploits, sends a messenger to warn him against setting foot in Africa, or attempting to raise the siege of Constantinople. Tamburlaine has just surprised Agydas declaring his love for Zenocrate, and has sent him a dagger with which to stab himself, when the Turkish messenger is introduced. He boasts of his great commander's invincible army, and his fifteen tributary kings; but Tamburlaine promises their crowns to his captains, and declares his assurance of triumph ere he encounters his imperial foe. In the next scene they meet, and, defying each other, entrust their crowns to Zabina and Zenocrate, who invoke success for their respective lords, and indulge in mutual abuse during the battle. Bajazeth is vanquished by Tamburlaine, and the Persian officers bring in the king's crowns. The Empress is forced to surrender her husband's, that Zenocrate may crown Tamburlaine Emperor of Africa; the Turk declares that he will be sovereign of the earth again, while the Scythian boasts that he will extend his dominion from east to west, including the ocean by the British shore; and the captive emperor and his wife are bound and carried off, cursing Mahomet for suffering them to be the slaves of Scythian barbarians.

The Soldan now musters his forces to rescue his daughter, and relieve Damascus, which Tamburlaine is besieging, having caused Bajazeth to be dragged thither in a cage, and using him as his footstool. The Egyptian hosts arrive, united with those of the King of Arabia, and at a banquet Tamburlaine is mocking his prisoners, while Zenocrate pleads for a truce with her father, and Theridamas, Techelles, and Usumcasane are crowned Kings of Algiers, Fez, and Morocco.

The Governor of Damascus and citizens enter with four virgins, whom they leave to plead with Tamburlaine and his captains; but their bodies are hoisted on the city walls, and the rest of the inhabitants are put to the sword, while Tamburlaine soliloquises on his love for Zenocrate; Bajazeth and Zabina are then brought in, and he bids them pray for him during the battle. Bemoaning their fate, however, they brain themselves against the cage; and Zenocrate is reproaching herself for not having interceded for them, when the King of Arabia enters wounded, and dies contented with her sympathy. Tamburlaine then leads in the Soldan, whom he consoles for his overthrow by making him one of his tributary sovereigns, and promising to marry Zenocrate, whom he crowns Queen of Persia, proclaims a truce with all the world.

TAMBURLAINE THE GREAT.

(*PART THE SECOND.*)

Principal Characters.

TAMBURLAINE, *King of Persia*,
CALYPHAS, AMYRAS, CELEBINUS, *his sons*.
TECHELLES, *King of Fez*.
THERIDAMAS, *King of Algiers*.
USUMCASANE, *King of Morocco*.
ORCANES, *King of Natolia (Asia Minor)*.
KING OF JERUSALEM.
KING OF TREBIZOND.
KING OF TYRE.
KING OF AMASIA.
GAZELLUS, *Viceroy of Byron*.
URIBASSA, *a captain*.
SIGISMUND, *King of Hungary*.
FREDERICK, BALDWIN, *lords of Buda and Bohemia*.
CALLAPINE, *son of Bajazeth*.
ALMEDA, *his keeper*.
PERDICAS, *Servant to Calyphas*.
GOVERNOR OF BABYLON.
MAXIMUS, *a captain*.
CAPTAIN OF BALSERA.
HIS SON.
ZENOCRATE, *wife of Tamburlaine*.
OLYMPIA, *wife of Captain of Balsera*.

Physicians, lords, citizens, soldiers, Turkish concubines, etc.

Period, 1402-1405. *Localities: Hungary, Asia Minor, and Babylon.*

ORCANES and Gazellus have reached the banks of the Danube with their hosts, to parley with the King of Hungary, and, although ready to shed more Christian blood, they decide to make peace with him, in order that they may be better able to oppose Tamburlaine, who is advancing with a world of people to overthrow the Turkish dominion. Sigismund enters with Frederick, Baldwin, and their trains, and, after mutual boastings and defiance, he and Orcanes swear to a life-long truce. In the following scene, Callapine, whom Tamburlaine still holds as a prisoner, bribes his keeper Almeda with the promise of a crown, to aid him in escaping to Turkey, and avenging his father's death. Tamburlaine is with Zenocrate at Larissa, inciting their three sons to martial deeds, when Theridamas, Techelles, and Usumcasane arrive to narrate their exploits, and report the forces they have raised in

their respective territories to march under his command against the Turks ; and he invites them to a banquet while their troops rest before the fight in which half the world shall perish.

Sigismund learns from his captains that the Turks have withdrawn the bulk of their army from Hungary, and, persuaded by them that he is not bound to keep faith with infidels, he orders a sudden attack on those who remain, that the Pagans may be discouraged from again daring to war with Christians ; and a messenger brings tidings of his treachery to Orcanes and his followers. The Christian hosts, however, are discomfited, their king is mortally wounded, and his body is carried off by the Turks, to be devoured by Natolian birds of prey. The scene changes to Zenocrate on her bed of state, with her husband and sons around, and three physicians preparing potions. Tamburlaine foreshadows her reception in heaven, and would fain die with her, but she bids him live on, and begs for music as she dies. He orders her body to be embalmed in a sheet of gold, that he may carry it about with him to be buried in the same tomb with his, and burns the cursed town which has bereaved him of his love.

Callapine is crowned Emperor of Turkey by his tributary kings, who place at his disposal the troops they have collected to scourge the pride of Tamburlaine, and he orders them to be ranged in battle array in the form of the semi-circled moon. Tamburlaine enters with his sons, and four attendants dragging Zenocrate's hearse. A pillar, banner, and picture are erected to her memory, and, having checked their grief, he teaches his boys the rudiments of war, and how to bear a wound, declaring blood to be the god of war's rich livery. In the next scene, Techelles and Theridamas are summoning the Captain of Balsera to surrender, but he bids them do their worst. Within the fortress, however, he is shot through the heart, upon which his wife stabs their son, and, having burnt the bodies, attempts to kill herself, but is carried off by Theridamas, who promises that Tamburlaine will mate her with a viceroy or a king. A messenger brings tidings to Callapine and his followers of the approach of the Persian host, but, confident of victory,

they hasten to the field to meet their foe. Tamburlaine parleys with them, threatening that they shall be harnessed to his coach, and bidding them fight or yield.

Amyras and Celebinus rouse their elder brother to take part in the battle, but he will not go, and calls his servant to play cards with him. The Turkish kings are led in as prisoners, and Tamburlaine stabs Calyphas for his cowardice in their presence, silencing their execrations with an intimation of the treatment in store for them. Olympia is discovered alone bemoaning her fate, and on Theridamas entering to urge his love, she offers him an ointment which will make his skin invulnerable. Anointing her own throat, she bids him stab, and he will find his weapon blunted; but he kills her, and consoles himself by carrying off the body, that it may be tombed with all the pomp the treasure of his kingdom may afford. Tamburlaine enters, drawn in his chariot by two of the captive kings, followed by his sons and attendants, and two more kings led by soldiers. He threatens to feed his prisoners with human flesh, and, boasting of further conquests, gives the command, "To Babylon, my lords, to Babylon!"

The governor has reproached the citizens for entreating him to hang out a flag of truce, and spurned the advice of Theridamas and Techelles to yield, when Tamburlaine appears in his king-drawn chariot, and orders the soldiers to march to the assault. The governor is brought in captive, and pleads for his life by indicating where he has hidden more gold than Babylon is worth. Tamburlaine, however, orders him to be hung in chains, and shot; and having caused the inhabitants of the city to be drowned, and the Mahometan sacred books to be burnt, he gives the word to depart for Persia, when he is seized with a sudden distemper, but declares that sickness or death can never conquer him. Callapine and the King of Amasia enter with drums and trumpets, and make their plans for conquering the tyrant of the world, with an army selected from twenty several kingdoms at the least. Theridamas, Techelles, and Usumcasane invoke the powers of Heaven on Tamburlaine's behalf, and he is seen approaching in his chariot, attended by his sons, languishing with pain, and

haunted by the image of death aiming at him with his murderous dart. The physicians offer him a potion, but pronounce his condition critical, when a messenger brings news of the advance of the Turks, and he insists on showing his face to dismay them. He, however, soon returns, and calling for a map, he traces his victorious progress, and bids his sons complete the conquest of the world. In obedience to his will, he is lifted from the chariot, and Amyras is crowned as his successor. He then begs that Zenocrate's hearse may be placed beside his chair, and, warning his son to rule with firmness, he utters his last farewell,—"for Tamburlaine, the scourge of God, must die."

THE TRAGICAL HISTORY OF DOCTOR FAUSTUS.

(IN SIXTEEN SCENES.)

By CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE; appeared 1589.

Principal Characters.

THE POPE.
CARDINAL OF LORRAIN.
EMPEROR OF GERMANY.
DUKE OF VANHOLT.
FAUSTUS,
VALDEZ,
CORNELIUS, } *friends of Faustus.*
WAGNER, *servant to Faustus.*
CLOWN.
ROBIN, *an ostler.*
RALPH, *servant at an inn.*

DUCHESS OF VANHOLT.

LUCIFER.
BELZEBUB.
MEPHISTOPHELES.
GOOD ANGEL.
EVIL ANGEL.
THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS.
DEVILS.
SPIRITS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND HELEN OF TROY.

Chorus, vintner, knight, scholars, etc.

Period, 1506. *Locality: Germany.*

THE Chorus introduce Faustus, who, as a Doctor of Divinity, excelled in theological disputes, but having become glutted with learning, is now surfeiting in cursed necromancy. He is discovered sitting in his study, bidding adieu to the subjects which have hitherto interested him, and declaring that the metaphysics of magicians are heavenly. He sends his servant for Valdez and Cornelius; but before they arrive, the Good and Evil Angels appear, the one urging him to lay aside his necromantic books, and the other to go forward in the art wherein all Nature's treasure is contained. His friends find him ruminating how spirits shall perform his will, and encourage him to be resolute, recommending his perusal of some works on magic, and promising to instruct him in the rudiments of the art. Wagner meets two scholars, who question him

respecting his master's companions, and hurry off to inform the rector, in order that he may reclaim him. Faustus is seen in a grove reciting a Latin incantation, and when Mephistopheles appears, he commands him to change his shape, and return as a friar. He obeys, and is charged with a message to Lucifer, the commander of all spirits, that Faustus surrenders to him his soul if he will spare him four-and-twenty years to live in voluptuousness, with Mephistopheles to attend on him, and always obedient to his will. After an interlude between Wagner and the Clown, Faustus is again visited by the Good and Evil Angels, who suggest, in turn, repentance and the pursuit of honour and wealth, and, at his invocation, Mephistopheles enters with Lucifer's reply. His request is complied with, but he must bequeath his soul by a deed of gift written with his blood.

Having executed it, devils bring him crowns and rich apparel; and on requesting a wife, Mephistopheles fetches a devil dressed like a woman, and gives him a book containing directions for raising spirits ready to execute whatever he desires. In the following scene, Faustus is inclined to renounce magic, and the Good and Evil Angels whisper encouragement and discouragement. He resolves not to repent, and argues with Mephistopheles respecting the solar system, and how the world was created. The Angels re-enter, uttering the words, "Too late," and "Never too late to repent," and he prays. Mephistopheles now introduces Lucifer and Belzebub, and the Seven Deadly Sins appear, namely,—Pride, Covetousness, Wrath, Envy, Gluttony, Sloth, and Lechery. Faustus questions them, and is promised by Lucifer that he shall visit hell. The Chorus announce that Faustus is on his way to see the Pope, and he enters the privy chamber with Mephistopheles, discussing the places through which they have passed, and the splendours of Rome. They become invisible, and his holiness and the cardinal, attended by friars, are seen at supper. Faustus snatches at the Pope's dishes and cup, and when he crosses himself boxes his ear, upon which they all run away. The friars return singing a dirge, and cursing the supposed ghost, while Faustus and Mephistopheles fling fireworks, and beat them as they retire. The Chorus relate

that since his return home the fame of Faustus as an astrologer has spread into every land, and that he is feasted by the Emperor Charles V. Robin, who has stolen one of the doctor's conjuring books, promises to perform wonders for Ralph's benefit, and induces the vintner to suspect him of secreting a goblet, when Mephistopheles appears, and, setting squibs in their backs, transforms one into an ape, and the other into a dog. The Emperor, with a knight and attendants, desiring some proof of the doctor's skill, calls upon him to raise the forms of Alexander the Great and his beautiful paramour, and, having despatched Mephistopheles to fetch them, they appear. He then causes horns to protrude from the head of the knight, who had doubted his powers, but removes them at the intercession of the Emperor, who bids him expect a bounteous reward.

On his way to Wertenberg with Mephistopheles, he meets a horse-dealer, whom he advises not to ride a horse he has sold him into the water, but he does so, and the horse vanishes away. Wagner now enters, with an invitation from the Duke of Vanholt, and he astonishes the duchess by producing a dish of ripe grapes at her bidding. In the next scene he causes Helen of Greece to appear to some scholars with whom he is conversing, and an old man exhorts him to repent; but he hesitates, and begs Mephistopheles to recall Helen, that she may dispel the thoughts which dissuade him from his vow. In the last scene Faustus opens his heart to his scholar friends, telling them of his compact with Lucifer, and that the time has come when he must die eternally. They leave him, and he has one bare hour to live, during which he anticipates with unavailing aspirations his terrible fate, and, as the clock strikes twelve, devils enter and carry him away. The Chorus exhort the wise

> "Only to wonder at unlawful things,
> Whose deepness doth entice such forward wits
> To practise more than heavenly power permits."

THE JEW OF MALTA.

By Christopher Marlowe; written 1591.

Principal Characters.

Ferneze, *Governor of Malta.*
Lodowick, *his son.*
Selim Calymath, *son of the Grand Turk.*
Martin del Bosco, *Vice-Admiral of Spain.*
Mathias, *a young gentleman.*
Barabas, *a wealthy Jew.*
Ithamore, *slave to Barabas.*
Jacomo, Bernardine, } *Friars.*

Pilia Borsa, *a Bully.*
Two Merchants.
Three Jews.
Knights, Officers, Slaves, &c.

Katherine, *mother of Mathias.*
Abigail, *daughter of Barabas.*
Bellamira, *a Courtesan.*
Abbess and Nuns.

Machiavel, *speaker of Prologue.*

Period, 1450. *Locality: Malta.*

MACHIAVEL, the personification of unscrupulous policy, introduces the Jew as having become rich by his help, but begs that he may be judged as he deserves. The play opens with Barabas gloating over his treasures, and expecting ships laden with more wealth, when two merchants come to tell him that they are safely at anchor, and he complaisantly decides that he would rather be a hated Jew than pitied in Christian poverty. Three brethren, however, enter to announce the arrival of a fleet from Turkey, and that all the Jews in Malta are summoned to the council house, whither they go. Calymath with his attendants meets the governor and his staff, and having demanded ten years' tribute which is in arrear, grants a month for collecting it, and departs. The Jews are called in and ordered to contribute half their estates; Barabas attempts to resist the decree, upon which officers are sent to seize the whole of his belongings, and convert his mansion into a nunnery. He has, however, hidden some of his wealth under the floor, and to secure it, Abigail meets the friars and abbess, and entreats them to admit her as a peni-

tent novice, to the astonishment of Mathias, who happens to see her entering the nunnery, and confides the news to his friend Lodowick.

Barabas appears during the night under Abigail's window, and she throws down the bags of money and jewels, which he hugs and carries away. Ferneze enters with Martin del Bosco and knights, and gives the admiral leave to sell some captured Turkish slaves, on condition that he secures aid from the King of Spain to enable the Maltese to defy Calymath and keep their gold. Barabas is brooding over his plans of vengeance in the market-place, where he is waylaid by Lodowick, whom he invites to his house to inspect a diamond without a foil, meaning his daughter, and purchases Ithamore as his slave. He next meets Mathias, to whom he has promised Abigail, with his mother, but she turns away from him as cast off from heaven. On their way home Barabas opens his heart to Ithamore, with whom he fraternises as a fellow-villain, and promises him gold if he proves true and secret. Lodowick now appears, and is introduced to Abigail, who is instructed by her father to make love to him; and presently Mathias arrives, and is allowed to see her and his rival hand in hand. Lodowick and Abigail are then betrothed, and, as he goes away, Mathias reappears, and is assured by Barabas that he is still the favoured one; but his daughter, mistrusting him, is asked whether there are not Jews enough in Malta, that she must doat upon a Christian, and Ithamore is sent with a forged challenge from Lodowick to Mathias.

Pilia Borsa shows Bellamira a bag of silver which he has stolen from the Jew, but she disdains it, and Ithamore falls in love with her as he passes on his way with the challenge. In the next scene the rivals meet, and kill each other, Barabas looking on from a balcony. Ferneze and Katherine enter, mourning the loss of their sons, and wondering as to the cause of their quarrel, while the attendants take away the bodies to be interred in one tomb. Ithamore returns, and tells Abigail of the death of both her lovers, and how it was accomplished; upon which she sends him for Friar Jacomo, and begs to be admitted once more as a nun, promising not to change her mind again. Barabas receives

a letter from his daughter, entreating him to repent, upon reading which he disinherits her, and, having promised to make Ithamore his heir, sends him with a pot of poisoned rice-porridge as an alms-offering for the nuns' supper on St. James's Eve. A messenger arrives at the council-house from Calymath, demanding instant payment of the tribute money, but he receives a defiant reply from the governor, and retires, threatening that his master will turn proud Malta to a wilderness. In the following scene the friars are lamenting the mortal sickness of the nuns, and Abigail enters, just able, before she dies, to reveal that her father was the cause of her lovers' duel, and to beg her confessor to convert him.

Barabas and Ithamore are rejoicing at the sound of the tolling bells, when they meet the two friars, and, finding that they know his secret, the Jew offers to endow a religious house with all his earthly goods as an atonement, and sends Ithamore with one of them to his house, while he pretends to confer with the other, and invites him to come later. Bernardine having been got to sleep, is strangled by the Jew and his slave, who stand the body outside the house, leaning on a staff; and when Jacomo, who is jealous lest his companion should outwit him, and secure all the money, arrives, he strikes him with the staff, and the corpse falls into the street. Barabas and Ithamore immediately rush out, and take Jacomo before the magistrates, as the murderer of his comrade. Ithamore comes from seeing the friar hung to call on Bellamira, and sends Pilia Borsa with a note to his master, demanding money that he may give it to her, and a second time for more. While the three are carousing, Barabas arrives, disguised as a musician, with a nosegay in his hat, which they all smell, and the Jew chuckles to himself that the scent has poisoned them.

Ferneze and his staff are preparing to resist the Turks' attack, when Bellamira and Pilia Borsa come to tell him all the Jew's misdeeds, and officers are sent to arrest him and his slave. Ithamore confesses, but Barabas demands to have law, and they are both taken to prison. Katherine comes to hear the news, and an officer returns to report that the witnesses and prisoners are all dead. The others are

buried, but the Jew's body is left on the floor, to be thrown over the walls as a prey for vultures and wild beasts. He revives, however, when alone, and is discovered by Calymath and his attendants, whom he offers to make masters of the city by admitting five hundred men through a secret passage. Ferneze and his knights are now brought in as prisoners, and Barabas, who is proclaimed Governor, secretly plans with him to betray the Turks, and recover Malta for the Christians. He accordingly invites Calymath and his suite to a banquet, and provides a feast for his troops in a monastery. Ferneze enjoins his countrymen to be ruled by him, and wait for a signal to sally forth. In the meantime Barabas is busy with the carpenters arranging for the entertainment, and, having accepted a bribe from Ferneze, gives him a knife, with which he is to cut a cord on hearing a charge sounded. Calymath and his Bassoes arrive, and are about to ascend to a gallery prepared for them, when Ferneze offers them greater courtesy, and, cutting the cord, the floor gives way, and Barabas falls into a cauldron which he had intended for his visitors. Martin del Bosco and knights enter; the Jew appeals in vain to Christians and Turks to help him, and, boasting of his deeply-laid stratagems, dies writhing with pain, and cursing all around him. Calymath would fain depart at once, but learns from Ferneze that all his soldiers have been massacred, and that he will be detained a prisoner until his father makes good the damage done to the city,

> ". . . For Malta shall be freed,
> Or Selim ne'er return to Ottoman."

EDWARD THE SECOND.

By CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE; written 1593.

Principal Characters.

KING EDWARD II.
PRINCE EDWARD, *his son, afterwards Edward III.*
EARL OF KENT, *brother of Edward II.*
GAVESTON, *a courtier.*
WARWICK, EARL OF.
LANCASTER, EARL OF.
PEMBROKE, LORD.
ARUNDEL, LORD.
LEICESTER, LORD.
BERKELEY, LORD.
MORTIMER, *the elder.*
MORTIMER, *the younger, his nephew.*
SPENCER, *the elder.*
SPENCER, *the younger, his son.*
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.
BISHOP OF COVENTRY.
BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.
BALDOCK, *tutor to the King's niece.*
BEAUMONT, *clerk of the crown.*
TRUSSEL, *a messenger.*
SIR JOHN MALTRAVERS.
SIR JOHN GURNEY.
LIGHTBORN, *an assassin.*
SIR JOHN OF HAINAULT.
LEVUNE, *a messenger from the King of France.*
RICE AP HOWELL, *a servant.*
QUEEN ISABELLA, *wife of Edward II.*
NIECE TO EDWARD II., *daughter of the Duke of Gloucester.*

Abbot, monks, heralds, messengers, soldiers, and attendants.

Period, 1327. *Localities: various parts of England.*

GAVESTON is reading a letter from Edward inviting him "to share the kingdom with his dearest friend," and promising to entertain some poor men, when the king enters with his attendant lords, who warn him that if he allows his favourite to stay within the realm, his throne shall float in blood. They retire, and Edward, having conferred several titles upon Gaveston, commits the Bishop of Coventry, at his instigation, to the Tower, for threatening that he shall be sent back to France. The courtiers are indignant, and the archbishop despatches a messenger to inform the pope of the violence offered to the Church. The queen complains to young Mortimer that Edward frowns upon her, but declares she would rather endure a melancholy life than that he should be oppressed with mutinies. The archbishop, however, proposes that the king's counsellors

insist on the banishment of his minions, and invites the Mortimers, Lancaster, and Warwick to Lambeth. Returning to Westminster, they call upon Edward to subscribe the paper they have signed, decreeing Gaveston's exile, and having in vain offered them new dignities, or that they may share the monarchy among them, so that he may frolic with his friend, he yields, and they carry off the document to publish it in the streets. Gaveston enters to take leave, and having exchanged pictures, Edward offers to see him on his way, when they encounter the queen, whom they reproach with her love for Mortimer, and the king banishes her from his sight until his favourite is restored to him, leaving her to bewail her marriage day. Several of the courtiers condole with her, and, at young Mortimer's suggestion, they agree to Gaveston being recalled, on the understanding that "for the realm's behoof, and for the king's," some base slave be suborned to kill him. The king returns sorrowing for his favourite, but on hearing from Isabella that she has pleaded for his return, he is reconciled to her and his peers, and prepares to welcome Gaveston, whom he has affianced to his niece, leaving the elder Mortimer to urge the younger no longer to oppose the king, to which he assents, after venting his contempt for the base-born upstart.

Young Spencer is predicting Gaveston's speedy return, and Baldock's promotion on his pupil's marriage, when the queen enters with a letter from Mortimer, and sends for her coach to convey her to the court, where the king is impatiently expecting him. On Gaveston's arrival he is welcomed by Edward, but when the peers salute him by his several titles, he insults them, upon which Lancaster and Mortimer draw their swords, and he is wounded. Edward forbids them his presence, but they defy him, and are hurrying away to rouse the people, when a messenger brings news that the elder Mortimer is taken prisoner by the Scots. They demand his ransom by the king, who offers them the broad seal to gather for him throughout the realm, on which they taunt Edward with having emptied his treasury on Gaveston, and being no longer feared by his enemies or respected by his subjects; his brother also warns him that

his love for his favourite will ruin him. The queen enters with his niece and Gaveston, to tell Edward that his nobles are in arms, and to introduce Baldock and Spencer, whom he attaches to his suite; and declaring "he that he lists to favour shall be great," retires with him to arrange the marriage feast. The Duke of Kent confers with the peers, and they agree to ring the knell of Gaveston at Tynemouth Castle. The king enters, and hurries him and his attendants away by sea to Scarborough, promising to follow them by land. Lancaster, young Mortimer, and others enter seeking Gaveston, and learning from Isabel whither he is gone, start in pursuit, leaving her with Mortimer's praises on her lips, and resolved, if Edward still rejects her love, that she will go with her son to France and make complaint to the French king. Gaveston is overtaken, and about to be beheaded, when Lord Arundel arrives with an entreaty from Edward that he may see him before he dies, and the peers entrust him to Arundel and Pembroke's custody.

The Earl of Warwick pursues them with soldiers, and demanding the prisoner, he is carried off to be executed. Edward is despairing of a compliance with his request, and, while the younger Spencer suggests that the peers should lose their heads, his father arrives with four hundred armed men to defend the king's rights, and the queen brings the news that the King of France has seized Normandy. Edward decides to send Isabel and their son to parley with her brother, charging the boy to bear himself bravely. Arundel returns to report that Gaveston is dead, and the king vows vengeance against the traitors. A herald then arrives from the barons, demanding Spencer's dismissal, and is bidden begone, with the reply that "Edward with fire and sword follows at his heels." A battle ensues, the king's forces retreat, and the rebels enter. Edward parleys with them, but refuses to banish his new favourite, and the fight is renewed. The king enters, with Kent and the barons captives. Kent justifies the murder of Gaveston, and is commanded to avoid the royal presence, Warwick and Lancaster are sentenced to be executed, and young Mortimer is committed to the Tower. Levune is then despatched to

bribe the lords of France to deny all aid to Isabel, and to proclaim King Edward's wars and victories.

Kent is soliloquising on his brother's acts when he meets young Mortimer, who has escaped from the Tower, and they start together for France. In the next scene Isabel is lamenting to her boy that they have no friends there, and he urges their return to England. While she hesitates, Sir John of Hainault arrives to offer them a temporary home there, and as she is accepting the invitation, they encounter Kent and young Mortimer, who accompany them to Flanders. Edward is cheered with news of a great execution of rebels; but a letter arrives from Levune announcing the queen's visit to Hainault, and the probability of an invasion from there, to prepare for which he starts with the Spencers and Arundel to Bristol. The threatened landing is accomplished, and Isabel and young Mortimer proclaim they are come "to redress the wrongs that Edward hath done his land and queen." Spencer counsels a retreat to Ireland, and Kent relents towards his brother, but fears Mortimer, whom Isabel loves. She creates her son Lord Warden of the Realm, and intimates that her husband must be dealt with as may seem fit to her followers. She also thanks Rice Ap Howell for bringing in the elder Spencer, and he is beheaded as a traitor. Meanwhile Edward, young Spencer, and Baldock have sought refuge in a Welsh monastery; but Leicester discovers them, and carries off the king on a litter, while Rice and a mower make prisoners of his companions.

Leicester endeavours to comfort Edward during his confinement at Kenilworth Castle, and, having persuaded him to resign his crown in favour of his son, to the Bishop of Winchester, transfers the custody of him to Lord Berkeley. Mortimer constitutes himself the young Prince's protector, and, with Isabel's connivance, sends Maltravers and Gurney to take charge of the king, with instructions to treat him harshly. Kent visits the usurpers with his nephew, who objects to wear his father's crown, and appeals to his uncle against Mortimer's interference with him; but the duke durst not offend the guilty pair, and secretly resolves to attempt his brother's rescue. Edward's keepers are sub-

jecting him to cruel indignities, when Kent enters, and bids them release their king; but they carry him off, and the duke is led away as a prisoner. Mortimer writes a letter, so worded as to be a command either to kill Edward or to spare his life, which he entrusts to Lightborn, enjoining him to do it bravely, and be secret. Edward III. is duly proclaimed, and gives the champion a purse. Soldiers enter with Kent, and Mortimer orders them to strike off his head, regardless of his nephew's intercession. Lightborn delivers the letter, and, having murdered Edward II., is stabbed by Maltravers and Gurney. Mortimer is betrayed by Gurney; the young king sentences him to be hanged, drawn, and quartered; commits Isabel to the Tower; and attends his father's obsequies.

EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR.

By Ben Jonson; written 1595.

Principal Characters.

Knowell, *an old gentleman.*
Edward Knowell, *his son.*
George Downright, *a squire.*
Wellbred, *his half-brother.*
Master Stephen, *Knowell's nephew.*
Master Matthew, *a town gull.*
Kitely, *a merchant.*
Thomas Cash, *his clerk.*
Captain Bobadil, *a sharper.*
Justice Clement, *a magistrate.*
Roger Formal, *his clerk.*
Brainworm, *Knowell's servant.*
Oliver Cobb, *a water-carrier.*
Dame Kitely.
Mistress Bridget, *her sister.*
Tib, *Cobb's wife.*

Servants, etc.

Period, 1595. *Locality*: *London.*

OLD Knowell bids Brainworm rouse his young master, and wishes he could wean him from a vanity he affects. Stephen comes to borrow a book about hunting and hawking, and is told by his uncle to learn how to spend his money more wisely than on every bauble he fancies. A servant brings a letter, intended for young Knowell, which his father opens, and finds it contains an invitation to meet some friends in the Old Jewry. He tells Brainworm to re-seal and take it to his son, without saying he has opened it, and resolves to win him from his youthful courses by softness and example. Brainworm, however, disobeys his master, and offers Stephen a horse to overtake the servant, whom he has a mind to beat, but decides another time will serve. Edward comes in, and having induced his cousin to accompany him to the city, endeavours to excite his self-estimation, which will pass for suburban humour. Matthew, about the same time, finds his way to Cobb's house, where Bobadil lodges, and is shown by Tib to his room, Cobb remarking that he is only a fishmonger's son, but wriggles into acquaintance with all the town gallants, such as his guest is, and who swears, smokes,

and borrows sixpences of his wife. The captain lets his visitor suppose he is one of his choice spirits, and praises some verses which he reads. Then they talk of Wellbred's brother, who has threatened to cudgel Matthew, and his friend, having given him a lesson in the use of a sword, and ascertained that he has some money to spend, proposes that they go in search of the offender, and challenge him.

Kitely gives Cash some business directions, and, when he is gone, tells Downright, who is his wife's brother, that he is a jewel whom he has brought up as an orphan, and complains that Wellbred, who lodges with him, has taken to irregular courses, and brings wild associates to hold their revels at his house. Downright asks why he does not speak to him, but Kitely replies that, in his heat of humour, he would probably spread some slander against him. As they are talking, Matthew and Bobadil come to inquire for Wellbred, and the captain calls Downright a scavenger. Kitely begs him not to act rashly; and resolves that, while he has eyes and ears, neither his lodger and his gallants, nor his wife and her sister, shall impose on him. Dame Kitely calls him to breakfast, but he suspects she has overheard him, and lingers in order to shake off his jealous fever. Brainworm has discovered that his old master intends following his young master, and disguising himself as a soldier, he hides in Moorfields, in order to intercept and hinder him. Seeing Edward and his cousin on their way, he advances, and, inventing a tale of his adventures, sells Stephen his rapier as a real Toledo, as the humour of necessity will have it so, and follows them for the money. Old Knowell enters, recalling the reverence paid to a grey head when he was a youth, but now the young have fallen from their fear, and age from its good example. Brainworm returns, and appealing to his bounty, is told to follow him that his honesty may be proved, which he does, with the inward resolve that,—

> "With change of voice, these scars, and many an oath,
> I'll follow son and sire, and serve them both."

Matthew and Bobadil meet Wellbred, and the captain is

talking disparagingly of Downright, when Edward and his cousin join them. Stephen is introduced, and pretends to be given to melancholy, which Matthew tells him he cures by writing sonnets. Bobadil brags of his military exploits, and bends Stephen's rapier double. Brainworm enters, and confesses he deceived him in calling it a Toledo; he entreats a word with Edward, and, making himself known, tells him his father is at Justice Clement's close by, and they all retire. Cash informs Kitely that he has made an appointment for him to fetch some money, but he fears Wellbred and his loose consorts will visit his wife while he is away; and, after hesitating to trust his clerk with the secret, directs him to send word to the Exchange, or Justice Clement's, if her brother and his friends, or any stranger, should arrive ere he returns, but on no account to tell his wife. As soon as he is gone, Wellbred and his friends enter, marvelling at Brainworm's artifice; and, while Cash is searching for a messenger, Bobadil extols the virtues of tobacco, and beats Cobb for abusing it, Matthew runs away, and Stephen indulges in the captain's oaths. Kitely, on hearing the news which Cobb brings him, wonders why he married, and imagines his wife and sister-in-law enjoying being kissed by the visitors; but is consoled when Cobb tells him they were smoking in the warehouse when he left, and hurries homewards.

Dame Kitely resents Downright finding fault with Wellbred's friends, and they come in with her sister and Cash. Matthew reads some verses he has just composed in praise of Bridget, and Downright bids them all begone, or he will cut off their ears; upon which they draw their rapiers, and the ladies shout for the servants to part them. Kitely arrives in the midst of the brawl, taxing his wife and her sister with being the cause of it, and the visitors retire, followed by Downright. Bridget objects to her brother-in-law's violent humour, and warns him he may have to pay her portion sooner than he thinks. Kitely tells Cash he believes that young Knowell is hidden in the house, and they go in search of him. Edward and Wellbred meet Brainworm in Moorfields, and, having despatched him to execute a device he has arranged with them, Wellbred promises his

friend that he shall marry Bridget. Disguised again as a soldier, Brainworm informs old Knowell, in Formal's presence, that all his movements are known to his son, and concurs that his servant must have told him what he was charged to conceal, adding that he met Edward and his friends, who locked him in a room, from which he managed to escape, while they entertained citizens' wives at a feast; and that he will find his son at Cobb's house with one of the ladies. The old gentleman hurries thither, and Formal invites the soldier to drink with him, and narrate his services in the wars. Edward and his companions discuss Downright's rudeness to them, and the captain boasts of his skill against the masters of defence, and how he would annihilate an enemy forty thousand strong. Downright is looking for them, and encountering Bobadil, who refuses to fight, beats him, while Matthew escapes. The captain retires to seek a surgeon, declaring he is planet struck, and Stephen, not heeding his cousin's warning, appropriates Downright's cloak, which he has found. Kitely fails to discover any hidden visitor, and Cash endeavours to dispel his fancies; but he hears laughing, and, sending his clerk to listen, learns that Formal has called to see him. Then Brainworm enters in Formal's clothes, and brings word that Justice Clement entreats Master Kitely to be with him directly.

While he is enjoining Cash to keep watch again, his wife enters with Wellbred and Bridget to inquire the meaning of his plotting, and pensive brow; but he goes away laughing at the idea of his being jealous. Dame Kitely, however, follows him with Cash, and Brainworm comes to tell Wellbred how he obtained Formal's apparel, and undertakes that Edward shall meet him and Bridget at the tower, her brother-in-law intimating that he wishes her to marry his friend. Kitely returns convinced there is some villainy, as he was not sent for, and, on hearing that his wife and Cash have gone out together, declares there is nothing left for him but to hang himself.

Bobadil is telling Matthew he will be revenged by law, when they meet Brainworm dressed as Formal, and bribe him to obtain a warrant against Downright, and have it served by a city sergeant, whom he secretly arranges to

personate. Old Knowell arrives at Cobb's house, and when Tib denies that his son is there, threatens to fetch a constable. Just then Dame Kitely arrives with Cash, and, mistaking Knowell for her husband, they retire and watch. Presently the merchant appears, muffled in a cloak, and Knowell, thinking he is Edward, interposes, when his wife claims him, while Kitely suspects her of having come to meet the old gentleman, and draws his sword to fight him; but Knowell bids him undeceive himself, and having vented his rage upon them all, he takes his wife home. Brainworm enters in a sergeant's gown, and is accosted by the captain and Matthew, who, seeing Stephen in Downright's cloak, point him out as the party to be arrested. Downright, however, approaches, and, having been served with the warrant, fees the officer to arrest Stephen for refusing to give up his cloak, and they go to Justice Clement's house. Knowell, Kitely and his wife, Cash, Cobb, and Tib are already there, and his worship is endeavouring to reconcile their conflicting assertions. He intimates that he smells mischief, and advises the jealous couple to retire and think matters over coolly. A soldier being announced, he calls for his sword; but when the captain enters with Matthew, and states his case, he puts it by, lest he should swoon. Then Brainworm brings in Downright and Stephen, and pretends he acted at Formal's bidding, but is ordered to jail as a knave and a rogue, upon which he throws off his disguise, and the justice, calling for a bowl of sack, intercedes for him with his master. Knowell pardons him, and, having confessed his various tricks, he is sent to enlighten Kitely and his wife, who reappear, and all discontents are laid aside, Kitely remarking that the horns flying from their heads will doubtless fall on others that think they've none at all.

THE SHOEMAKERS' HOLIDAY.

By THOMAS DEKKER; written 1599.

Principal Characters.

KING HENRY V.
THE EARL OF CORNWALL.
SIR HUGH LACY, EARL OF LINCOLN.
ROWLAND LACY, OR HANS, } *his nephews.*
ASKEW
LOVELL, *a courtier.*
SIR ROGER OATELEY, *Lord Mayor.*
MASTER HAMMON, MASTER WARNER, MASTER SCOTT, } *citizens of London.*
SIMON EYRE, *a shoemaker.*

ROGER, OR HODGE, FIRK, RALPH, } *Eyre's journeymen.*
DODGER, *servant to the Earl of Lincoln.*
A DUTCH SKIPPER.
A BOY.

ROSE, *daughter of Sir Roger.*
SYBIL, *her maid.*
MARGERY, *wife of Simon Eyre.*
JANE, *wife of Ralph.*

Period, 1419. *Localities*: *London and Old Ford.*

THE Earl of Lincoln is advising the lord mayor not to wed his daughter to his spendthrift nephew, Rowland, who had to become a shoemaker in Germany, but has just been appointed chief colonel of the companies mustered in London to serve in the war with France, when Lovell, accompanied by Lacy and Askew, brings a message from the king that the troops must be landed at Dieppe within four days. Sir Roger promises the colonel twenty pounds in addition to his pay, which the earl tells him shows his joy that he will be separated from Rose, and begs him to think no more of her, to which he gives an evasive reply, and persuades Askew to take the companies to Normandy, in order that he may attend to some serious business for three days. While they talk, the shoemaker enters with his wife, journeymen, and Jane, to beg the colonels to leave Ralph at home; but they decide that he must go, and are summoned to Tower Hill by Dodger, against whom Rowland warns Askew, Ralph's parting gift to his wife being a pair of shoes.

Rose is sitting in a garden at Old Ford, making a garland for her lover, and bemoaning her father's unkindness in preventing them from meeting. Sybil brings greetings from her relatives, but none from him, and she bribes her to go to London and learn whether he has started for France or no. Rowland, meanwhile, has resolved to risk the displeasure of the king and his uncle, and, disguised as a Dutch shoemaker, to become one of Eyre's journeymen. As Eyre is using stirring language to rouse his household to their early work, Rowland comes into his yard singing in Dutch, and Margery joins Firk and Hodge in persuading her husband to hire him. Giving his name as Hans, he treats his fellow-workmen to some beer, and they all go to breakfast.

Warner and Hammon are hunting in a field near Old Ford; and presently Rose and Sybil enter, talking of Sir Roger's men having caught the deer in a barn and killed it. The hunters return, and, while they are put on a wrong scent, and joke with the maidens, Sir Roger appears, and invites them to partake of some refreshment, Hammon remarking to his friend that for the lost venison he will get a wife, and his worship inwardly planning to do the best he can to match his daughter to the gentleman.

The Dutch skipper proposes to Hans and his companions that their master shall buy, for a mere trifle, a valuable cargo from Candia, the owner of the ship not daring to appear. Eyre and Margery join them, and, after some lively talk, Firk tells them of the bargain, and a boy brings in a velvet coat and gown for the shoemaker, and some rich dresses for his wife, as specimens. Eyre goes with Hans and the skipper to the ship, and she declares that she feels honour creeping upon her. Dodger brings the Earl of Lincoln news from France of a battle in which the English were victorious, but that Rowland was not present, his place being supplied by Askew. Vowing he shall repent his rashness, and suspecting the cause, the earl bribes Dodger to watch for his nephew at the lord mayor's, feeling sure he will find him there. Sir Roger has invited Master Scott to witness the marriage of his daughter to Master Hammon, and introduces them. Rose, however, challenges her suitor's sincerity, declaring she means to live a maid, and

he withdraws, remarking that enforced love is worse than hate. Her father sends her back in disgrace to Old Ford, and he and Scott congratulate themselves on having gone partners with the shoemaker in his enterprise. Eyre joins them, followed by Dodger, who begs a private interview with his worship. Promising to follow his friends to the Guildhall, he learns that Rowland is in London, and tells his informant he will reward him handsomely if he can rid him into France. Mistress Margery is gossiping with her husband's workmen, and sends Firk to ascertain whether he has accepted the office of sheriff. She also requests Roger to make her a pair of high-heeled shoes, and to recommend a fashionable milliner and wig-maker. Talking of tobacco, she says,—"Those filthy pipes, men look not like men that use them." Then Ralph limps in, and is told that his wife grew more stately than became her, and left them.

Hans and Firk rush back to announce that Eyre is elected, and he follows, wearing a gold chain, with some finery for his spouse. Telling his men that they may live to be sheriffs, he assigns his shop and tools to them, and bids them make holiday while he and Mistress Shrieve are dining with the lord mayor. After merry-making and singing, his worship begs Margery to counsel his daughter, and as she is recommending her to prefer a grocer to a courtier, the journeymen and others enter as morris-dancers. The host offers them wine, and Rose contrives to hand a cup to Hans, having discovered who he is; but is induced by Sybil not to speak to him, on her promise that,—

> "To-morrow, if my counsel be obeyed,
> I'll bind you prentice to the gentle trade."

Jane is working in a seamster's shop, courted by Hammon, but she persists in hoping her husband still lives, until her suitor produces a letter in which Ralph's name is mentioned as among the slain, when she reluctantly consents that, if ever she weds again, it shall be him. The next morning, as the shoemakers, including Hans and Ralph, are working, and talking of their doings at Old Ford, Sybil comes to fetch Hans to fit on some shoes he has

made for Rose; and then a serving-man calls to order a pair for a lady about to be married, and produces one as a pattern, which Ralph recognises, and, inquiring where he shall deliver them, is told at Master Hammon's. He resolves to waylay the bride, and, should she prove to be Jane, to take her in despite, at which Firk observes that wedding and hanging go by destiny. Rose and her lover are embracing, but, warned by Sybil that her father is coming, Hans pretends to be trying the shoes, and, the Earl of Lincoln being announced as a visitor, the lord mayor retires, and they arrange to escape. The earl has called in the hope of finding his nephew, but obtains no tidings, and suspects his worship's good faith, when Sybil rushes in declaring that her mistress has fled with the Dutch shoemaker. Firk also enters, and, being cross-questioned and tipped, reveals the news that Hans and Rose are to be married on the morrow at St. Faith's Church, where my lords arrange to await them and prevent the nuptials, Firk chuckling on his way home at having planned some fine sport.

The lovers are the guests of Eyre, who is the lord mayor elect, and he bids her ladyship accompany them, escorted by servants, to the Savoy Church, leaving him to prepare for a visit from the king to open a new hall, which he has built as a granary. About the same hour the shoemakers assemble at St. Faith's, and on the arrival of Hammon with Jane, she is asked whether she recognises her husband, and at once embraces him. Hammon offers Ralph twenty pounds to let her be his wife, but is told to choke himself with the gold, and disappears. The Earl of Lincoln and Sir Roger Oately now arrive, and while they mistake Ralph and his wife for the runaway couple, and discover how Firk has misled them, Dodger brings news that Rowland and Rose have been married at the Savoy, and they hurry off to petition the king to annul the match. The re-united couple go home, and the shoemakers join the city apprentices in the new hall to celebrate Shrove Tuesday, which the lord mayor elect has procured they shall henceforth hold as a holiday. The king and his train proceed to the hall, his majesty sending a request to Eyre to entertain him

with his wonted merriment. In the meantime he is feasting his other guests, and promises to intercede for the bride and bridegroom, who, with her ladyship, are onlookers. A flourish of trumpets announces the king's arrival, and on Rowland and Rose kneeling before him, they are pardoned. The Earl and Sir Roger come to denounce their nephew and daughter, and his majesty at first pretends to divorce them; but joining their hands again, asks who mislikes the harmony, and silences their relentless relatives. He then decrees that the new building shall be called "Leadenhall," because the lead for roofing it was found in digging the foundations; grants the shoemakers' suit that they may hold a leather market there twice a week; and accepts Eyre's invitation to grace a banquet he has prepared with his royal presence.

PHILASTER.

By BEAUMONT and FLETCHER; written 1608.

Principal Characters.

KING OF SICILY AND CALABRIA.
PHILASTER, *heir to the crown.*
PHARAMOND, *Prince of Spain.*
DION, *a lord.*
CLEREMONT, } *Courtiers.*
THRASILINE, }

ARETHUSA, *daughter of the King.*
EUPHRASIA, *daughter of Dion, disguised as a page named Bellario.*
MEGRA, *a Court lady.*
GALATEA, *lady attending the Princess.*
OTHER COURT LADIES.

Citizens, woodmen, guards, attendants, etc.

Period, 1350. *Localities: Messina, and neighbourhood.*

THE courtiers are discussing the arrival of the Spanish prince, at the king's invitation, as a suitor for Arethusa, with the succession to the kingdoms of Sicily and Calabria, to the exclusion of Philaster, when the court ladies join them, followed by the king, his daughter, and Pharamond. Addressing the prince, the king informs him of his intent, and the Spaniard replies with self-commendations, "taking leave to be his own free trumpet." Philaster enters, and, hearing Dion's comments, obtains permission to speak his mind freely, which he does by warning the intruder that he does not intend to part calmly with his inheritance, or to sit still, saying, "I might have been." The king retires, threatening to tame Philaster of his fancy that his father's spirit bids him be a king, and the courtiers offer to conjure up the people, as rods of vengeance in his behalf. He, however, turns the conversation to Dion's daughter, who has undertaken a pilgrimage, and a lady brings him a message from the princess, entreating his company in her apartment. At the interview they exchange vows of love, and are arranging to communicate with each other by means of a boy whom he has adopted as a page, when Pharamond is announced. Philaster

retires, declining to brawl with "nought but a valiant voice," and Arethusa withdraws, offended with his conversation.

Bellario reluctantly leaves Philaster, to attend the princess, and the Spaniard amuses himself by making love to Megra, overheard by Galatea, who informs her mistress. The ladies and gentlemen promenade after supper, and are joined by Pharamond, and by Arethusa and her page. She rallies the prince that he is courting, and he disappears, followed by Galatea and Megra. The king enters with his guards, and, bidding his daughter retire, surprises Pharamond with his paramour, who, to screen herself, declares that Bellario is the princess's.

The courtiers pretend to believe her, in the hope that the loss of his lady-love will rouse Philaster to claim his rights, and Bellario vainly strives to undeceive him. He, however, foregoes his threat to kill the boy, and they part, Bellario entreating a tear should he find him loyal. The king, meanwhile, tells Arethusa his suspicions; and her lover's reproaches, and disbelief of her protestations of innocence, make her exclaim, "Where shall a woman turn to find out constancy?" Bellario's grief is also intensified at being spurned as a dissembler and betrayer.

Obeying her father's summons, she accompanies him and the prince in a hunt, during which their attendants discuss the scandal, and the woodmen their dislike of the Spaniard, and the characters of the lady riders. Alone in the forest, Philaster is bemoaning he had not always lived there free from vexation, when Bellario appears, and begs his help to save him from cold and hunger; but he will not relent, and they take different paths. Dion and Cleremont then meet, searching for the princess, and encounter the king, who commands them to find her, but he is told he can only enforce obedience in things possible and honest. Pharamond now comes up with Galatea and Megra, and they all disperse to continue the search. In another part of the forest Arethusa is found by Bellario in a fainting condition, and as she rejects his help, Philaster approaches, and offers his sword in turn to her and to the boy, begging them to take his life. Then he bids the page begone, and is in the act

of killing the princess, with her consent, when he is interrupted by a countryman, with whom he fights, and disappears wounded. Pharamond and his suite approach, and, having entrusted Arethusa and the countryman to the care of a woodman, follow the chase. Philaster discovers Bellario asleep, and, having wounded him, is escaping, when loss of blood stays his flight; but the boy conceals him just as the hunters reappear, and pretends he is the would-be murderer of the princess. His master, however, emerges from his hiding-place to declare him innocent, and they are both carried before the king, and, at Arethusa's request, entrusted to her custody.

The courtiers hear that Philaster has been sentenced to death; and at an interview with Arethusa and Bellario in his prison, he asks their pardon with shame and sorrow. Thrasiline is sent to bid the princess bring out her prisoner, and Dion meanwhile warns the king he may yet be deceived, and the lives of thousands bleed in his red ruin. Arethusa and Philaster enter with Bellario, who presents them as noble-hearted lovers, and, in the midst of his wrath at their protestations of innocence, the king is summoned to the citadel, with the news that Pharamond is taken prisoner by the citizens, who are advancing to the rescue of the rightful heir. The courtiers reproach themselves with their unworthy thoughts of the princess, and the king returns, calling for Philaster, whose forgiveness he craves, and entreats him to calm the people, which he undertakes to do, on condition that Arethusa and Bellario are set free.

An old captain and citizens bring in the Spaniard, threatening him with various indignities, and shouting for Philaster, who, declaring himself their friend and prince, quells the mutiny, and, giving them drink money, returns to the palace with Pharamond. In the final *dénouement*, the king gives his daughter to her lover, and the Spaniard is recommended to return home with Megra, who persists in her accusation against Arethusa, and her father commands that Bellario be tortured, in order that she may be cleared or buried. Philaster intercedes, but he declares that he will discover all to Dion, and they talk apart, with the result that the page-boy proves to be his daughter Euphrasia. Asked why

she had not sooner revealed herself, she confesses that, having lost her heart at first sight of Philaster, as her father's guest, and conscious she was no match for him, she feigned a pilgrimage, and vowed never to be known, while there was hope to hide her sex from men's eyes. Declining the king's offer of a marriage dowry, she begs only to be allowed to continue to serve the princess and her husband as their page; Megra is dismissed from the court; Pharamond is reminded that his own faults lost him the hand of Arethusa; and the king invokes all blessings on Philaster and his bride.

A NEW WAY TO PAY OLD DEBTS.

By PHILIP MASSINGER; written 1633.

Principal Characters.

LORD LOVELL.
FRANK WELLBORN, *a prodigal*
SIR GILES OVERREACH, *Frank's uncle.*
MARRALL, *his attorney.*
GREEDY, *a Justice of the Peace.*
TOM ALLWORTH, *page to Lord Lovell.*
ORDER, AMBLE, FURNACE, WATCHALL, } *Lady Allworth's servants.*
WILLDO, *a parson.*
TAPWELL, *an alehouse keeper.*
LADY ALLWORTH, *a widow, Tom's stepmother.*
MARGARET, *Sir Giles's daughter.*
FROTH, *wife of Tapwell.*
CREDITORS.
SERVANTS, *etc.*

Period, 1624. *Locality: Nottinghamshire.*

THE Prodigal, in tattered apparel, asks a morning draught of Tapwell and his wife, who were his father's servants, but they refuse it, and threaten to call the constable, reminding him that, although the heir of old Sir John, he has squandered his fortune, mortgaged his lands, and become a common borrower. He is beating and kicking the fellow for his insolence, when Allworth intervenes, and the couple crawl away. Frank taxes his friend with his love for Margaret, and warns him he can never hope for happiness with the daughter of such a cormorant, or that Sir Giles will consent to the match. Tom bids him think of his own plight, and offers him money to put him in better fashion; but he declares that, without assistance, he will either mend his state or die. Lady Allworth's servants are lamenting that, since her husband's death, she keeps her chamber, and the tempting meals they prepare are devoured by harpies, when her stepson arrives, just as she is about to take her morning walk, and, dismissing them, she invites him to remain. They talk of Lord Lovell joining the army

in the Low Countries, and having elicited from Tom his wish to become a soldier, she repeats to him his father's words :—

> " If e'er my son
> Follow the war, tell him it is a school
> Where all the principles tending to honour
> Are taught, if truly followed," etc.,

and promises to furnish him with the needful funds. Sir Giles, Greedy, and Marrall call to inquire for her ladyship, and while they are enjoying her good cheer, in lieu of her company, Frank comes in, but his uncle disowns, and the servants insult him ; Tom also treats him as a stranger. Lady Allworth, however, approaches, and although she at first repulses him, he tells her how he once helped her husband when want, debts, and quarrels lay heavy on him, and, whispering his request, which she at once concedes, he also conciliates the servants, who, as he leaves, exclaim, " still merry Master Wellborn ! "

A conversation ensues between Sir Giles and Marrall, revealing their schemes for ruining his neighbours and persecuting his nephew, whom he has already cheated, as well as for marrying his daughter to Lord Lovell ; and then between Marrall and Frank, who, instead of following the attorney's advice to hang or drown himself, offers to take him to dine with Lady Allworth. Tom is being feasted by the servants when the guests arrive, and, as he leaves, apologises to Frank for his seeming abruptness. On entering the room, her ladyship salutes Frank, and at his bidding offers the same compliment to Marrall, at whose behaviour, during dinner, the servants are unable to hide their mirth. On parting, she assures Frank that he will be ever welcome as to his own house. On their way home, the attorney begs him to accept the loan of some money and his horse, asking in return a lease of some of the noble lady's land when he marries her. Sir Giles is so incredulous on hearing the news, that he strikes Marrall, to drive the lying spirit out of him, and then announces that he has invited Lord Lovell to be his guest.

Tom has confided his attachment to his lordship, who promises to keep the secret, and give him no cause for

jealousy. Sir Giles orders Marrall to spare no cost in arranging a sumptuous entertainment, and, directing him to call his daughter, entrusts Greedy with the choice of the dishes. As he is scrutinising Margaret's dress, Greedy interrupts them respecting the stuffing of a fawn ; and as he is speaking in praise of his expected visitor, disturbs them again as to the cooking of some woodcocks. Sir Giles, however, proceeds to impress upon her his will that she stands not on form to secure the peer as her husband. Marrall ushers in the guest, attended by his page, to the sound of music, and Greedy is presented to him. Margaret is then introduced, and the others retire, upon which his lordship pretends to woo her, Sir Giles listening behind.

She, however, whispers in Lord Lovell's ear, and he bids her rest happy, but help him to delude her father. To the astonishment of the host and his toadies, Lady Allworth and Frank arrive as callers, and are invited to join the dinner-party, to the disgust of Greedy, who has to sit with the servants. Sir Giles having retired to wonder at her ladyship's infatuation, she comes to ask his permission to walk in the gardens with Frank ; and Lord Lovell, entering with Margaret, expresses his hope ere long to call him father. Lady Allworth returns, and, thanking Sir Giles for his hospitality, offers a seat in her coach to Lord Lovell, who promises Margaret she shall hear from him daily by his faithful page. Uncle and nephew then have a friendly talk, and Frank departs with the promise of rich clothes and money, that he may go a free man to the wealthy lady.

Lord Lovell has just released his page from further service to him, and handed him a letter for Margaret, when Sir Giles, Greedy, and Marrall enter, and his lordship having mentioned Tom's errand, Sir Giles gives him his ring as a passport, and bids him, after pleading for his master, ride to Nottingham and get a licence. The others having retired to breakfast, he offers to settle all his possessions on his daughter, and that Lady Allworth's lands, or any others his lordship may care for, shall be his, without in any way sullying his fame. At a private interview Lady Allworth counsels her neighbour against marrying Margaret, to which he replies that he would not so adulterate his blood, and

elicits her assurance that she is innocent as regards Frank. The scene changes to the alehouse keeper and his spouse, who on hearing that their old master's son is settling with his creditors, have bribed Greedy to intercede for them; but their petition is unheeded, and their licence cancelled. Marrall, to secure Frank's favour, volunteers to reveal a secret respecting Sir Giles's dealings with his property. Tom and Margaret are exchanging vows of constancy, and settling their plans, when she observes her father listening, and they pretend to be discussing Lord Lovell's letter urging her to elope with him, to which she objects. Sir Giles, coming forward, ridicules her scruples, and Tom explains that his master wishes to celebrate his marriage in London. Margaret begs her father to give her away, but he refuses, and, handing the page a purse of gold for the night's expenses, and a letter to his chaplain worded, at Tom's suggestion, "Marry her to this gentleman," he blesses his daughter, and bids them begone, flattering himself that the accomplishment of his wishes is ensured.

Lady Allworth explains to Lord Lovell the motives for her favours to Frank; and his lordship, having divulged that he is secretly endeavouring to help Tom, and deceive Sir Giles, proposes to her, and is accepted. Frank arrives in a rich suit, with the news of Margaret's disappearance, and asks Lord Lovell to withdraw, but not out of hearing. As he does so, Sir Giles comes in, threatening Marrall, who carries a box, and inquires whether her ladyship has seen his daughter and her husband. Receiving a curt reply, he addresses his nephew, and, hinting at a stolen marriage, demands a mortgage on his wife's possessions for the money he has lent him. Frank charges his uncle with owing him ten times as much as he demands; to which Sir Giles replies that he holds the deed confirming his purchase of the Wellborn lands; but on opening the box, it is found to contain a skin of parchment, without wax or words. Turning to Marrall, he begs him to swear to the deed being drawn and delivered; but the attorney declares that he knows of no such document, and threatens to discover all his devilish practices. While Sir Giles is giving vent to his rage, Greedy and Parson Willdo arrive, and dispel all his

sad thoughts and fears, by assuring him that his daughter is married. Presently music is heard, and she enters as Tom's wife. Baffled and fooled, he attempts to kill Margaret, but is restrained by Lord Lovell, whom he challenges; and vowing not to leave one throat uncut, he retires. Marrall tenders his services to Frank, who tells him that he who dares to be false to one master will never be true to any other, and he is kicked out by the servants. Sir Giles returns raving, and is carried off, Lord Lovell undertaking that Tom and Margaret shall be his guardians. He also offers to act as umpire respecting the Wellborn lands, and promises a company under his command to Frank, who doubts not that, in his service to his king and country, he shall do something that may make him right again.

PERKIN WARBECK.

By JOHN FORD; written 1634.

Principal Characters.

KING HENRY VII.
EARL OF OXFORD.
EARL OF SURREY.
LORD DAWBENEY.
SIR ROBERT CLIFFORD.
SIR WILLIAM STANLEY, *lord chamberlain.*
BISHOP OF DURHAM.
URSWICK, *King's chaplain.*
LAMBERT SIMNEL, *pretended son of Clarence, brother to Richard III.*
HIALAS, *a Spanish agent.*
KING JAMES IV., OF SCOTLAND.
EARL OF HUNTLEY.
EARL OF CRAWFORD.

LORD DALYELL.
MARCHMONT, *a herald.*
PERKIN WARBECK, *pretended second son of King Edward V.*
STEPHEN FRION, *his secretary.*
JOHN A'WATER, *mayor of Cork.* } *Perkin's followers.*
HERON, *a mercer.* } *Perkin's followers.*
SKELTON, *a tailor.* } *Perkin's followers.*
ASTLEY, *a scrivener.* } *Perkin's followers.*

LADY KATHERINE GORDON, *Huntley's daughter.*
COUNTESS OF CRAWFORD.
JANE DOUGLAS, *Lady Katherine's attendant.*

Sheriff, officers, soldiers, masquers, servants, etc.
Period, 1496-99. *Localities: England and Scotland.*

KING HENRY remarks to his counsellors that, although still haunted with apparitions of new-coined greatness, he sits fast in his birth-right as the physician for England's bleeding wounds; and they recount the thousands of lives sacrificed during ninety years of civil war, the smothering of the young princes in the Tower, the recent union of the rival houses of York and Lancaster by the king's marriage, and Lady Margaret's persistence in helping to raise pretenders to the throne. The king replies that the base-born Simnel is now a falconer, and that Edward's younger son was, beyond doubt, murdered; yet he lives again in Perkin, who, having been accepted in Ireland, was for a time supported by the King of France, and is now in Flanders with the dam who nursed him. Urswick enters with a paper, which Henry declares contains good news, and informs his attendant lords that he purposes

removing the court from Westminster to the Tower. At Edinburgh Lord Dalyell is asking the Earl of Huntley for the hand of his daughter, who is a princess of the blood royal of Scotland, and receives permission to court her. Lady Katherine enters, and he pleads his love, encouraged by her father, who at the same time reminds her that the young king is unmarried, but that she is free to use her own judgment. She tells Dalyell he must win her by worthy actions, and meanwhile she will regard him as a friend. As they talk the Earl of Crawford comes to summon Huntley to King James's Council, telling them that the secretary to a Duke of York has craved an audience. In the Tower the bishop warns Clifford not to dally with the king, if he hopes to regain his favour, and to be firm against the sorceress of Burgundy. Henry enters, and questions him as to the truth of a paper he holds relating to the movements of Perkin, who has made an unsuccessful attempt to land in Kent, and has secured the services of Frion, who was the king's French secretary. Clifford gives him the names of the pretender's followers, and hints that, at Frion's suggestion, he has resolved to sue for aid from King James; he also denounces several Englishmen of title who are secretly helping him, including Stanley. Henry is in despair at his chamberlain's treachery, but, at Urswick's suggestion, gives orders for his confinement; and Dawbeney arrives with the news that ten thousand Cornish men, grudging to pay the subsidies demanded by the king, are making for London, joined by others on their march.

The countess and Lady Katherine talk doubtingly with their attendants of the English prince, whom the king is preparing to welcome; and James enters with his lords, bidding them not to be distrustful of the young duke, and ordering music to sound while majesty encounters majesty! Perkin and his followers are introduced, and he tells the high and mighty king a pitiable tale of the vicissitudes of the sole heir to the throne of the Plantagenets. James replies he must be more than a subject who can utter the language of a king, and that such as love him not shall never wrong him; the ladies admire him; and James commands their presence for the entertainment of his guest.

King Henry wishes to reprieve Stanley from the sentence of death, but his courtiers object that the people will infer that York's title is better than that of Lancaster, and he retires to avoid meeting him. They tell Sir William of the king's merciful thoughts; and, while he takes leave of them, Clifford enters, upon whose cheek he makes a cross, a mark of infamy which shall never wash off, that all may read his character, and is led away to be executed. Henry returns, and, dismissing Clifford, hands the chamberlain's staff to Dawbeney; he then orders who shall lead his army against the Cornish rebels, and also measures for withstanding the probable advance of the death-daring Scots. Crawford and Dalyell fear James meditates a match between the mushroom duke and Huntley's daughter, and ridicule the gravity of his tradesmen counsellors. The king enters arguing with Huntley, and declares his pleasure that the marriage shall take place; Crawford hints the lady may have made another choice, but James intimates that she has consented, and her father mournfully resigns her. Perkin leads Lady Katherine in, followed by the countess and his suite, and the king joins their hands, telling her that she is now the prince's wife.

She asks her father's blessing, but he bids her kneel to heaven, and retires with Dalyell that they may weep together. Left alone with Perkin's followers, Frion boasts of his success, but they reply hopes are but hopes; he, however, persuades them that the Scots must not engross all the glory, and undertakes to arrange a masque, in which they shall all take a part, commenting to himself on the toil of humouring such abject scum of mankind.

Henry observes to Urswick that the Londoners are quieted, and the Cornish rebels cozened of their hopes; but he will not abate a penny of the money which parliament has voted, and he has a charm that shall loose the witchcraft by which King James is bound. Trumpets sound as Oxford and Dawbeney enter to report the rout of the Cornish host, and two thousand prisoners, whom the king commands shall be allowed to return home, except Audley and the other ringleaders, who must be executed; he also orders the collection of the subsidies to be made speedily, and promises a largess to his loyal soldiers.

Huntley affects to make light of his grief, and endeavours to cheer Dalyell, begging his mercy for not having given him his daughter. James and his courtiers, with the bride and bridegroom, assemble to see a dance by the masquers, who are thanked and dismissed, the king being impatient to join his army and issue a proclamation to the English people.

Perkin sends a purse to the masquers, and takes leave of his wife, telling her he will fall like a king, or crown her empress of the west; she assures him of her constancy, and he responds to her submission to destiny. Henry gives secret audience to Hialas, who is commissioned by Ferdinand of Spain to advise a truce between England and Scotland, and suggests that, when he has broached the proposal to James, the English king shall send some one of experience to join entreaty with him. Urswick attends him to the gallery, returning to report that he pursed the king's present, and to confirm Henry's impression that he hinted the marriage between Ferdinand's daughter and the Prince of Wales could never be consummated while any Earl of Warwick lived in England; upon which the king commands a messenger to be in readiness to start with letters for the Bishop of Durham. The Scots with Perkin are before the castle of Norham, and James demands a parley; the bishop appears on the walls, and is summoned to surrender to Richard of York; he begs the king to reflect ere he wakes Henry's vengeance, and to shake off the imposter; Perkin entreats him to lend no ear to his traducer, and James gives the command to spare no prey of life or goods. Perkin then dolently pleads for England, and is taunted with his lack of adherents, while Frion brings intelligence that Henry has overthrown the forces opposing him, and an army is advancing to raise their siege, with another and the navy following. James orders a retreat, telling Perkin he will send a defiance to the Earl of Surrey to meet him in single combat.

The earl and the bishop are in the English camp, near Ayton on the borders, wondering where the Scots are hidden after their defeats, when Marchmont, with another herald, approaches, and delivers his master's challenge; Surrey courteously accepts it, but the bishop interposes,

and, volunteering to accompany the heralds to confer with King James, departs with them. In the Scottish camp Perkin tells Frion all his hopes of glory are at a stand, and is bidden, if he will appear a prince, to restrain himself. Whither must he next? he asks, and is advised to attempt a landing in Cornwall; his followers enter and agree to the proposal, finding Scotland a cold, phlegmatic country; and Frion bids them cheer the prince, for on this depends fame in success, or glory in their ends. In another tent King James, the bishop, and Hialas are conferring; the Spaniard unfolds his errand supported by the bishop, who suggests a marriage between the king and Henry's daughter Margaret.

James acquiesces in their proposals, agrees to dismiss Perkin in safety from his dominions, and offers to despatch Huntley as his ambassador to England, to which they at once accede. James sends Dalyell for Perkin, who enters with Lady Katherine and his followers. The king informs him of his decision, to which he submits, only begging not to be divorced from his wife, and she declares that no human power shall separate them; James consents, and retires. Perkin sends his counsellors to prepare their ships, and appeals to his wife not to distrust him; she replies that she is armed to encounter whatever they meet with, and Jane declares she will never forsake her mistress.

Frion proposes to communicate with Lady Margaret, and takes his leave suspected of treachery. Huntley comes to say farewell to his daughter with tears of charity and affection, and Dalyell to tender his personal services to her, which she and her husband accept. Oxford and Dawbeney discuss the king's plans, and the proposed single combat, when Henry enters, smiling with Urswick at the success of his policy, and the collapse of Perkin's pretensions; boasting also of having spent the people's contributions to his treasury economically, and wondering that his leniency brings neither thanks nor comfort. A messenger hands him a packet containing the news that Frion is caught, thanks to the bishop; and, commanding Oxford and Dawbeney to move the army to Salisbury plains, he communicates with the mayor of Exeter. The Pretender and his companions have reached the Cornish coast, and he tells

his wife the people are flocking to welcome him; she is willing to hope, and he is once more confident. Skelton enters hailing him as King Richard IV., and Astley reports that Exeter is appointed the rendezvous. Perkin gives the word "To Exeter," and invokes blessings on their enterprise.

Lady Katherine tells Jane that they must yield to fate, and that she will never return to Scotland. Dalyell brings her news of the repulse of the Cornish men by the citizens of Exeter, and that Perkin has fled. While he speaks, Oxford enters with the offer of King Henry's protection to herself and suite, including Dalyell, and they accompany the earl. The king tells Surrey that he feels his turmoils are past, and is assured that his thanks had been duly given to the western gentry for their loyalty. Dawbeney with a guard brings in the pretender and his followers, who have voluntarily surrendered, and Perkin, boldly arguing that fate might have befriended him as it did Richmond on Bosworth field, asks mercy, not for himself, but for those who have risked their all in his cause. They kneel to Henry, but he commits them and their leader to the Tower, where they may perhaps recover their wits. Oxford arrives with Lady Katherine, Dalyell, and attendants, and the king offers her an annuity, and a home at his court, at the same time thanking Dalyell, and telling the princess he hopes ere long to comfort her with her father's blessing. Officers put Perkin in the stocks on Tower Hill, and, Urswick having informed him that a jury has doomed him to the gallows, Simnel declares his father was a Jew, and bids him follow his example by confessing, and hope for pardon. Perkin scorns him as base-born, adhering to the pretension that royal blood flows in his veins, when Lady Katherine, Oxford, and Dalyell enter. She would share his reproaches, and he extols her as a pattern wife; Urswick and Oxford remind her he is an imposter; she replies that he is her husband, and, advancing to receive his parting kiss, she swears to die a faithful widow. The other lords enter, and warn Perkin to prepare for his fate; Huntley forgives his daughter, and bids her husband farewell; he takes leave of them all, and Dalyell and Jane lead his wife away. Perkin's followers

are brought in with halters about their necks; he salutes them as peers of England, and bids them die as men of spirit, as the sheriff leads them away. Henry enters with the bishop and Hialas, predicting the success of their business with him, and expressing his conviction that:

> "Public states,
> As our particular bodies, taste most good
> In health when purged of corrupted blood."

THE PARLIAMENT OF BEES.

(IN TWELVE SCENES.)

By JOHN DAY; written 1641.

Principal Characters.

THE MASTER BEE.
THE HOSPITABLE BEE.
THE PLUSH BEE.
THE FIELD BEE.
THE POETICAL BEE.
THE RIVALS.
THE GATHERING BEE.
THE PASSIONATE BEE.
THE QUACKSALVING BEE.
THE USURING BEE.
OBERON IN PROGRESS.
THE HIGH BENCH BAR.

Other speakers, servants, fairies, etc.

THE author's commission to his Bees is,—"Be valiantly free, but not too bold"; and he begs that his play may be read through ere it be censured.

A parliament is held to keep the commonwealth of Bees in awe, and Prorex, as Master Bee by the warrant of Oberon, who has given them their pasture of flowers, nominates the office-bearers, and calls upon the Speaker to inform them of the work of the session. He prefers bills against the Humble Bee, who robs the labourers as they fly home; the Wasp, who pretends to buy, but never pays; the Hornet, who rifles their merchants' packs; and the Drone, who plays the thief at night, pillaging their hives and killing the inmates. The officers are instructed to deal with these outlaws, and the court breaks up, each one to his toil.

The Hospitable Bee tells his guest that on Mondays he bestows his alms on those whose fortunes are sunk low by generous housekeeping; on Tuesdays on such as have all their life-time wrought their country's freedom; on Wednesdays, such as have dived for knowledge in the Sacred Writ; on Thursdays, such as have been unfortunate in high offices

of state; on Fridays, such as for conscience' sake are kept in bonds; on Saturdays, he feasts the poor who are past labour; and on Sundays his tenants and servants. Asked why he does not take a wife, he replies—his sound affections might be put out of frame, and that his heirs shall be the poor, whose succession nought can ruin.

The Plush Bee, a vain-glorious reveller, declares he will build a hive like Jove's palace, with a hanging roof, that men may crown his fame for turning the world upside down. He will entertain no ragged rabble, and bids his servants lash them if they approach his gate. His ambition is gold, and he would there were ten worlds to sell for hills of silver, that at one feast he might draw all that treasure dry.

The Field Bee seeks an interview with Prorex, and calls his servant an illiterate daw, whom he would teach to read canon law. Taxed with being a suitor, he tells him he ought to know a true-born gentleman, however poorly attired, and wonders that such whalebone rascals should be able to tickle their employers' ears. The Master Bee welcomes him, and, listening to his boast of honesty and bravery, acknowledges his timely aid when fighting against the Wasp, and, in reward for his bold chivalry, makes him commander of a colony.

The Poetical Bee visits his patron to beg a dinner, and presents him with a book dedicated to the most honoured dame, which he bids his servants burn. The poet deprecates such martyrdom, and is told to write a satire on the Master Bee. He hesitates, as a loyal subject; but is taunted with being ready to whip poor bees to death, and to flatter great drones' vices, instead of holding his reputation too dear to temporise even with kings. He retorts that poesy is but a feigning, and tells how Persius taught his pupils, and his own ideas of the difference between great and small poets. The patron declares that verses are bought and sold, and the makers, who merit gold, are fed with husks, because opinion gives their reward.

Arethusa inquires of her companion Ulania news of Meletus, who, she believes, dwells in her father's hive; and then it transpires that they are both in love with him.

Ulania boasts how other bees have sued her, but that she can only love this stranger. Arethusa asks how he spends his time, and is told that he labours and toils, and is always ready to help any poor or disabled bee. Also that, vowing her name, which he engraves on every bough, he prevailed against a whole swarm of wasps, and that he writes verses in her praise, causing Ulania to weep and sigh. Wondering who Arethusa is, she begs her companion to tell Meletus, if she knows him, that he shall be her saint; and when he grows weak and faint, she will do his labour and her own, making the earth fruitful with a shower of tears. Arethusa reproaches herself for having been cruel to him, and vows that all amorous bees shall wonder at the change which his love has wrought in her.

The Gathering Bee derides his kinsman for his prodigality and pride, who replies that he will do more than wear but one man's portion, and threatens that, when all his trees are felled, he will warm himself with his relatives' bones. What is it to him if he spends millions? He would waste the Indies in feasting his friends; and when all his treasure is gone, he will turn pirate. Meanwhile the vanity of all mankind is his. He is warned, however, that

"Who spends all young, ere age comes, all shall lack."

Chariolus, the Master Bee's son, soliloquises on Arethusa's perfections of form and brain, but knows her not when she comes to announce that his lady-love is dead, and has bequeathed him her troth. He receives the news so calmly that she repents, and tells him she lives; but no,—"with a sigh she died," and he will have that sigh drawn on a chariot in a gorgeous procession, with mottoes of his misery, and symbols of her virtues. Arethusa suggests he had better forget her, and entertain another. "Never!" he declares,—

"A sigh shall bear my soul up to my love."

The Quacksalver sues to be household apothecary to

an elderly bee, who says that he is healthful both in body and wits, and needs only his kitchen and his garden, adding,—

> "Man was made sound at first; if he grows ill,
> 'Tis not by course of nature, but free will."

The quack demands a fee, reminding the steward he has accepted a bribe, which the master overhears, and remarks, "If this be true, he is bought and sold by his servant." Next the doctor buys and bequeaths him to a surgeon; and lastly, he is dieted in a hospital, and a scrivener makes his will: he, however, pays the fellow handsomely, but resolves that of such artless empirics he'll beware.

Suitors appeal to the Advocate Bee for despatch of business, and he orders them to be well treated. The Usurer begs for pecuniary help because his hive is burnt, and is told that, although his face shows a page of close dissembling, the money he asks is bestowed in charity; but if he is cheating, it will not benefit him. A one-legged suitor, whom he has swindled, denounces him as sucking honey from the bloom of sin, and using his starved debtors' bones as timber. The Usurer cannot deny the charge, and his victim craves he may be flogged. The Advocate sentences him to a hundred strokes, or to hand over the gold he has obtained to his accuser, who would like to see all dishonest brokers thus made to disburse.

Oberon presides in session, and his winged tenants bring their tribute. Agricola, who has invented how to till the earth, is made bailiff; Pastoralis is confirmed as shepherd, and Vintager does homage as steward of the wines. Flora, who has charge of the herbs and flowers, is commended to the love of Phœbus, and all, retaining their places, solemnise the holy day.

Fairies summon the Master Bee and all his swarm, and Oberon sits in his star chamber. Three conspirators—the wasp, the drone, and the humble bee—are arraigned by Prorex, who is told that justice wins more honour by supporting great than hanging poor ones; but the delinquents are nevertheless condemned to perpetual banishment,—

> "Underneath two hanging rocks,
> Where babbling echo sits and mocks."

They cry mercy, but are told 'tis too late, and fairies thrust them to their fate. Oberon then warns the Master Bee to make his subjects so his own as he for them may answer; and, having bestowed upon him in marriage the chaste Latria, who will teach him how to be himself, rejoins the fairies.

VENICE PRESERVED.

By THOMAS OTWAY; written 1680.

Principal Characters.

DUKE OF VENICE.
PRIULI, *a Senator.*
JAFFIER, *husband to Belvidera.*
PIERRE, *his friend.*
BEDAMAR, *an Ambassador.*

ELLIOT, RENAULT, SPINOSA, } *Conspirators.*

BELVIDERA, *daughter to Priuli.*

Other conspirators, captain of the guard, officers, etc.

Period, 1607. *Locality: Venice.*

JAFFIER seeks a hearing from his father-in-law, who reproaches him with having requited his friendship by treacherously gaining Belvidera's love, ignoring the circumstances under which he rescued her from drowning, and invokes the curse of disobedience on both of them. Her husband pleads he has spent his fortune in treating her as the daughter of a senator, but is bidden retire with her to a cottage, and starve. While he hesitates to face his creditors, Pierre enters, denouncing the tyranny of their rulers, and telling him he has just seen all his possessions seized by Priuli's order, and his wife led away weeping. Swearing revenge, he promises to meet his friend on the Rialto at midnight, and Belvidera comes to cheer him with the assurance of her constancy.

As he waits for Pierre he is filled with misgivings, but accepts a purse from him, and inquiring what treason it must buy, he is sworn to secrecy, and told he shall mix with men fit to disturb the peace of all the world. In an adjacent house Renault is meditating on the sandy foundation of ambition, and is taunted by Spinosa, who joins him, with being only half resolved. Elliot enters, and threatens the Frenchman for remarking on his late arrival, and then Bedamar and the other conspirators appear. The ambassa-

dor adjusts the quarrel, and they all welcome Pierre, who announces that ten thousand armed men are at their nod. Bedamar asks whether any have friends they would wish to save, and Pierre introduces Jaffier, who offers his wife as a pledge that they may trust him. She is called in, and he bequeaths her to Renault, who leads her away entreating not to be forsaken.

"I'm sacrificed, betrayed to shame!" exclaims Belvidera, as she enters a chamber, and when her husband comes in, she reproaches him for concealing the labour of his mind, and begs he will kill her, asking why she was entrusted to a villain who has insulted her. Jaffier bids her confide in him, and as she leaves Pierre comes in, surprised to find his friend so employed, and advises him to reserve his vengeance. He retires as Renault approaches muttering, and Jaffier, taxing him with his baseness, threatens to cut his throat. The other conspirators, however, arrive, and Renault instructs each as to his part in executing the plot, ordering them to shed blood enough, and spare neither sex nor age. He then hints his suspicion that Jaffier, who has left the room, is a traitor, and Spinosa suggests a search for him; but Pierre tells Renault he is a coward, and talks of betraying them all to the senate. They appease him, and he trusts the morrow will prove that he has preserved their fame, and saved his friend.

Jaffier and Belvidera are crossing the Rialto at midnight, and as she is prevailing on him to save his country, and the lives of the nobles, they are arrested, and taken by the officers and guards to the council-chamber, where the duke and senators are assembled. Priuli is telling them that he has had warning of the conspiracy, when Jaffier is brought in, and confesses his share in it. Daring them to torture him, he stipulates for his own full pardon, and the lives of the friends of whose names he gives a list, handing in also a paper intimating their place of meeting. He is taken away, and presently the officers bring in the other conspirators in fetters. Pierre, pointing to his chains, asks, are they the recompense for his past services to the state, and who dares accuse them? Jaffier is recalled, and tells his friends he has proved false; and, in reply to the duke's

inquiry whether they will confess their vile deeds, and trust the senate's mercy, they prefer death. The council breaks up, and as Pierre is led to his dungeon he strikes Jaffier, calling him a whining monk and a hypocrite, and rejecting his explanations and entreaties for reconciliation. As he broods over his dagger Belvidera enters, in deep distress, to tell him the warrants are signed for the execution of his accomplices, and he begs her begone, lest a lurking serpent in his breast sting her heart. "Kill me, then," she exclaims, "while I kiss thy lips and die in joy." But he throws away the dagger, and sends her to intercede with her father for the pardon of his friend Pierre.

Priuli is asking himself why dishonour and infamy have fallen upon him, as his daughter enters to plead with him for pity and forgiveness. She tells him that Jaffier has vowed he will kill her if his friends are sacrificed, and, having evasively promised they shall be immortal, he begs her to forgive him for all his past follies, and, henceforth, he will be indeed her father. In the garden she meets her husband, who invokes bounteous blessings for her, and, commending their child to her care, takes leave of her for ever. Pierre is at the scaffold expecting Jaffier, for whom he has sent. They embrace, and whisper together; and, having ascended it, while the executioner prepares Pierre for the wheel, his friend stabs him, and then himself—the one rejoicing, as he dies, that the senate is deceived, and the other uttering imprecations against them, and with his last breath sending a token of his love to Belvidera and their boy. In the final scene Priuli is standing by his daughter's bed, listening to her distracted lamentations; and, while an officer narrates what has happened, a vision of it seems from her utterances to be passing through her brain, and she is dead.

THE MOURNING BRIDE.

By WILLIAM CONGREVE ; written 1697.

Principal Characters.

MANUEL, *King of Granada.*
GONZALES, *his favourite.*
GARCIA, *son to Gonzales.*
PEREZ, *captain of the guard.*
ALONZO, *parasite to Gonzales.*
OSMYN, *a noble prisoner, afterwards* ALPHONSO, *Almeria's husband.*
HELI, *a prisoner, friend to Osmyn, afterwards* ANTONIO.
SELIM, *a Eunuch.*

ALMERIA, *Princess of Granada.*
ZARA, *a captive queen.*
LEONORA, *attendant on the princess.*

Mutes, guards, prisoners, attendants, and women.

Period, 1450. *Locality : Granada.*

THE princess, who wears mourning, after listening to soft music, laments to her attendant that from grief at the loss of Alphonso, to whom she was secretly married, she has grown more senseless than trees or flint, and now his father, Anselmo, who has been cruelly kept in chains by her father, his fellow king, is dead. Leonora sheds pitying tears, and elicits the story of her mistress's sorrows. Distant shouts proclaim the king's triumph, and Almeria declares she will die rather than be forced to marry the son of his favourite. Gonzales arrives to announce that her father is approaching the palace, laden with the spoils of war. Manuel enters, attended by his retinue, with prisoners and guards, and as Gonzales kisses his hand, Garcia salutes the princess's. The king reproaches his daughter for not putting off her weeds, when she should have revelled at his enemy's death, and Gonzales makes excuses for her ; but she is told that to-morrow's sun shall grace her nuptials, and retires. Alonzo reports the arrival of Zara, attended by Osmyn, and they are brought in. Manuel declares her beauty has enslaved him, but she scorns mock praise and dissembled state, pointing to their bonds, on which he commands Perez to free her and hers, commenting to Garcia

on the sullen mien of Osmyn, who replies that captivity has robbed him of a dear and just revenge. Zara explains that he has lost his friend Heli in battle, but the king is suspicious, and bids Garcia inquire, while at her fair shrine he lays his laurels down.

In the aisle of a temple, Heli hears with joy from Garcia that Osmyn is alive, and has been seen there; and as they talk, Perez points to him striding away with distempered haste. Heli begs leave to follow his friend alone, and while the others discuss Zara's love for him, they fancy some one is coming, and retire. Almeria enters cautiously with her attendant, and says:

> "Nay, quickly speak to me, and let me hear
> Thy voice—my own affrights me with its echoes."

Leonora would return, but the princess insists upon being taken to Anselmo's tomb, and they go. Heli has preceded them, and hearing a voice, he follows it. They reach the vault where the old king rests, and as they notice that the marble door is unclosed, and Almeria is yearning for death, and invoking Alphonso to help her, Osmyn emerges from the tomb, and recognises his wife. Heli enters as they are both fainting, but they revive, and when their ecstasy has subsided, he shares their wonder and happiness. Leonora, however, warns them she has seen two figures, who prove to be Zara and Selim, marking the spot, and they separate, Heli undertaking to escort Almeria, and unfold everything to her ere she sees her husband again. Zara joins and upbraids him, whom she redeemed from death, for abandoning her, adding that to gain his love is still to reign; but he tells her she knows him not, and, taunting him with fear of his rival, she vows to be revenged, when the king enters, and, having overheard her words, orders his guards to seize Osmyn, whose punishment shall be as she pleases, and leads her away.

Osmyn is in prison, meditating on a petition in his father's writing interceding for him, when Heli enters to prepare him for a visit from Almeria, and to cheer him with the hope of a mutiny against the king. As he retires, Zara comes in

veiled, still yearning for his love, and promises his release. Then the princess arrives, and while he gives vent to his despair and horror at the thought of her marriage to Garcia, Zara enters with Perez and the eunuch. Osmyn pretends to be thanking her rival, as she leaves, for offering to intercede for him ; but Zara discovers their secret, and, choking with suppressed anger, mocks at his miseries, and tells him he shall die, for

> " Heaven has no rage like love to hatred turned,
> Nor hell a fury like a woman scorned."

In a room of the palace, Selim informs Zara of the revolt of more troops, and the escape of Heli, and that the king has signed a warrant for the execution of Osmyn ; on hearing which she relents, and is planning how to save his life, when Manuel enters, attended by Gonzales and Perez. They discuss the conspiracy, and she openly warns the king that he is not safe while Osmyn lives. She, however, tells him privately that his guards are tainted, and suggests that her mutes shall strangle him. Gonzales concurs, and Perez is instructed. Left alone with Manuel, his favourite ventures to doubt Zara's sincerity, and advises him to question his daughter, who is approaching. She owns having been with Osmyn, and on being told by her father that he knows all, she replies they both must die. Then she pleads for his life ; and at last reveals that he is her husband Alphonso. The king withdraws, believing she raves ; but as Leonora leads her away, she repeats her secret to Gonzales, who instigates Alonzo to disguise himself quickly as a mute.

Manuel is consulting with Perez and Alonzo, when he notices a mute concealing something in his bosom. Alonzo is ordered to seize him, and, returning with a letter, reports that the fellow has killed himself, on which he is told to remove the body, and appropriates the clothes. On reading the letter, the king vilifies Perez as Zara's accomplice, and then charges him to drench his dagger in Alphonso's heart, and return with his robe, that he may personate him in the prison. Watching Manuel depart, Zara blames Selim for having ruined her design, and he bares his breast

for her to stab him; but she bids him order the other two mutes to attend her, each with a bowl of poison. Gonzales enters the prison, disguised as a mute, and goes into the inner chamber alone; Garcia and Alonzo arrive, and he comes out, telling them Alphonso is dead. They look in, and discover that he has stabbed the king. Father and son are in despair; shouts are heard without; and, as Garcia hurries away to quiet the soldiers, Alonzo comes out of the chamber, informing Gonzales he has severed and concealed the king's head, so that the guards may mistake the body for that of Osmyn. Zara and the eunuch enter, followed by the mutes, who are sent into the chamber to warn Alphonso. They return with scared looks, and, learning the cause, she laments his cruel fate. Selim reports that the king is missing; and, having stabbed him, she swallows the contents of one of the bowls, and dies. Almeria arrives with Leonora, and, believing her husband murdered, drops the other bowl of poison, which she was about to drink, just as Alphonso, Heli, and Perez enter with Garcia as their prisoner, the knowledge of her father's death moderating her joy, and teaching her, that

"It is not given in this frail life to be entirely blest."

THE PROVOKED HUSBAND.

By COLLEY CIBBER; written 1700.

Principal Characters.

LORD TOWNLY.
MR. MANLY, *his friend.*
SIR FRANCIS WRONGHEAD,
SQUIRE RICHARD, *his son.*
COUNT BASSET, *an adventurer.*
POUNDAGE, WILLIAMS } *Lord Townly's servants.*
JAMES, *Mr. Manly's servant.*
JOHN MOODY, *Sir Francis' servant.*

LADY TOWNLY.
LADY GRACE, *Lord Townly's sister.*
LADY WRONGHEAD.
MISS JENNY, *her daughter.*
MRS. MOTHERLY { *a lodging-house keeper.*
MYRTILLA, *her niece.*
TRUSTY, *Lady Townly's servant.*

Carter, constable, etc.

Period, 1700. *Locality: London.*

LORD TOWNLY wonders to himself at his wife's profligate course of pleasure and card-playing; and when she enters, attired for going out, he insists on being told why she married him. She replies—to escape from the restraints she was under as a single woman, and enumerates some of the privileges of a wife. He gives her money to meet any debts of honour she may have, and she coolly intimates that some of it will be forthwith trifled away at a quadrille party. As she leaves him, he marvels at her insensibility, and resolves to consult with his sister and Manly how to cure it. Lady Grace has been reading, and while he is eliciting her feelings towards his friend, he arrives, and plainly tells his lordship that he has allowed his wife too much power, and she has abused it. He announces that his relative Sir Francis has been elected a M.P., and is coming to town with his young wife to arrange his affairs. James interrupts their conversation to say that Moody has arrived to secure them lodgings, and they have a talk with him, in which he quaintly describes the family arrangements for the journey. Left alone, Manly admits that Lady Grace has softened his opinion of the fair sex, and that—

"Could women regulate, like her, their lives,
What halcyon days were in the gift of wives;
Vain rovers, then, might envy what they hate,
And only fools would mock the marriage state."

Count Basset is awaiting Sir Francis and his family at Mrs. Motherly's lodgings, and hinting to her niece that perhaps the young squire may take her off his hands, when they arrive in their coach with six horses. Jenny retires with Myrtilla, followed by Master Richard; and Lady Wronghead invites the count to take tea with her, leaving Sir Francis to look after the baggage. Manly calls to warn him that a petition has been lodged against his election; but he intimates his resolve to make as good a figure as his ancestors, and to get Jenny appointed a maid of honour. Her ladyship comes in to welcome her cousin, accompanied by the count, whom he inwardly suspects; then the young squire is introduced to his godfather, and Miss Jenny gives him a taste of her nimble tongue. The count takes his leave, dropping a letter as he goes; and, after Manly has left, Mrs. Motherly tells them of his rumoured approaching marriage, which decides Lady W. to throw a rub in his way. Sir Francis and his son share the contents of a tankard, and Moody comes to report that, as the coach was being driven to the stables, it was completely smashed by a clumsy carter; but my lady complaisantly suggests they can buy another second-hand, and bespeak a new one.

Lady Grace informs her brother that his wife dines abroad, and hands him an anonymous letter she has received, enclosing one apparently from Myrtilla to Manly, accusing him of having deserted her. Acting on his lordship's advice, she shows them to her lover, who at once guesses by whom, and for what purpose, they have been sent, and starts off to obtain proof of his innocence. Mrs. Trusty has told Lady Grace that my lord and lady are both out of humour; and they come in disputing angrily, she declaring that she cannot alter her ways, and he that he will not bear with them any longer. Lady Grace endeavours to reason with her sister-in-law, and convince her how happy she might be by submitting to her husband's wishes; but she replies that her idea is to enjoy life, not to endure

it, and Mrs. Trusty announces her chair. Manly explains to Lord Townly the mystery of the letters, and that he has learnt some other secrets, which he hopes will enable him to prevent the ruin of his cousin's family. He is assured, in return, of Lady Grace's regard for him, and his lordship rejoices at the prospect of their happiness in comparison with his experience of married life.

Manly calls to see what his relatives have been doing, and learns that Sir Francis has made acquaintance with a noble lord, in order to intimate his willingness to accept a place at court, and has been to the House, where he voted on the wrong side. The ladies and the count join them, and as Miss Jenny is entertaining her relative with an account of their gaieties, she is silenced by her mother, and consoled by the count, whose manner convinces Manly that miss and her mamma are jealous of each other. He talks apart with Myrtilla, and arranges for an interview with her aunt; while Lady W. displays the finery she has purchased, and sets his expectation of a good appointment against her extravagance. She is then invited by Mrs. Motherly to inspect some lace, and, Sir Francis being led away by the young squire to dinner, the count plans a secret marriage between him and Jenny, and between the young squire and Myrtilla, chuckling to himself, when alone, at the use he has made of his assumed title, and that his intended wife's money will enable him once more to cut a figure with men of quality.

Sir Francis, with a sorrowful face, comes to Manly at Lord Townly's house, to tell him that his wife has spent the night at hazard among a parcel of pig-tailed puppies and pale-faced women of fashion; and he is warned that, unless he at once takes his family home again, he will be run by his wife into jail, his daughter will be married to a sharper, and his son to a deserted mistress. They retire within hearing as the young squire and Myrtilla enter whispering, followed by the count with Jenny, all in masquerade dresses, and laughing at having given Lady W. the slip. Myrtilla pretends to fetch the chaplain to marry them, but returns with a constable, and points to the count, whom he arrests on a warrant against him for forgery, Sir Francis advancing

at the same time with Manly, and knocking his son down with his cane. Lady W. enters dressed as a shepherdess, and, hearing Sir Francis enlightening their daughter, exclaims,—"Slighted for her!" She is ordered to prepare for their return home as soon as their horses are ready, but declines to stir. Manly, however, asks leave to speak with her apart, and produces a *billet doux* to the count, which he promises her husband shall never see, and informs him she will receive his commands. The count pleads for mercy, and is told his only chance of escape is to marry Myrtilla at once—a private penance or a public one—and he consents, upon which Manly hands her a bill for five hundred pounds, and the constable undertakes to give the lady away. Lady Townly is just waking, after sitting up all night gambling, and telling Trusty she has lost her last guinea, asks,—what is to be done? At her suggestion, the steward is summoned to refund the money in his hands to pay a debt due to her ladyship's mercer; but the man has called for it, and makes such a noise at being put off, that Lord Townly, on hearing the facts, comes to remonstrate with his wife. She refuses to answer his inquiries, and defies him, upon which he tells her she sleeps in his house no more, and sends for Lady Grace and Manly to be witnesses of their separation. His friend intercedes for her, she confesses her errors, and they are reconciled. To complete their happiness, his lordship places Lady Grace's hand in Manly's; and Lady Townly commits her future days to her sister-in-law's guidance—

> "Never the paths of pleasure more to tread,
> But where her guarding innocence shall lead;
> For, in the married state, the world must own
> Divided happiness was never known:
> To make it mutual, nature points the way,—
> Let husbands govern, gentle wives obey."

CATO.

By JOSEPH ADDISON; written 1713.

Principal Characters.

CATO, LUCIUS, } *Roman Senators.*
PORCIUS, MARCUS, } *Cato's sons.*
DECIUS, *a Roman knight.*
JUBA, *a young Numidian prince.*
SEMPRONIUS, *a Roman general.*
SYPHAX, *a Numidian general.*
JUNIUS, TITUS, } *mutinous Roman officers.*
MARCIA, *Cato's daughter.*
LUCIA, *Lucius's daughter.*

Senators, freedmen, mutineers, guards, lictors, etc.

Period, B.C. 46. *Locality: Utica, capital of a Roman province in Africa.*

CATO was a strenuous opponent of Cæsar's designs against the republic, and, after the death of Pompey, had gone to Africa, and urged the Romans at Utica to resist the approaching conquerer. His sons discuss the situation, and Porcius reproaches Marcus for thinking of Lucia, whom he also loves unknown to his brother, at such a time, bidding him behold young Juba, their sister's lover, whose desire of fame enables him to control his passion. Sempronius joins them, and, dissembling his real feelings, professes admiration for Cato, and is rebuked by Porcius for talking of his yearning for the hand of Marcia, while her father's life is in danger. Cursing his monitor, who goes to animate the soldiers' drooping courage, he plots with Syphax, and urges him to secure his young prince's co-operation, while he inflames the troops, under his command, against Cato. Juba enters, and Syphax endeavours to disparage the Romans in his estimation; but the young Numidian dilates on their virtues, and, refusing to abandon Cato, commands him to desist. Marcia approaches with Lucia, and he hails her with a dawn of joy, but she bids him think rather of the impending struggle, and of her prayers and wishes for the cause of liberty. He goes, declaring that in the shock of charging hosts she will be in his thoughts; and

Lucia marvels how she could chide him so sternly, confessing that Porcius has stolen away her heart, and that she dreads his brother's vehemence.

Sempronius and Lucius are in the senate house, and Cato enters with his sons. He dwells upon Cæsar's successes, and inquires whether they are for still holding out, or for submission. Sempronius declares for war, but Cato warns him against zeal beyond the bounds of reason. Lucius thinks their country's cause, that drew their swords, now wrests them from their hands, to which Cato replies,—

"No, let us spin Rome's term of freedom out."

Junius announces the arrival of Decius from Cæsar's camp, and re-enters with him and Titus. The old knight asks the price of Cato's friendship for the conqueror, and is told he must disband his legions, and stand the judgment of a Roman senate. Decius reminds Cato he has not now all the mouths of Rome to second him, but he sends a defiant message as regards himself, and commends his friends to Cæsar's care. His brother senators thank him, but Sempronius sneers at the lukewarm patriotism of Lucius; Cato, however, interposes, and they retire, leaving him with Juba. He informs the young prince of their decision to keep the sword unsheathed, and is urged by him to quit Utica, and court the assistance of the neighbouring Numidian kings. Juba, however, is told that valour soars above misfortunes, which often give mankind occasion to practise virtues, that lie concealed in the calm of life.

He replies that all his heart aspires to depend on Cato, and that Marcia inherits all her father's virtues, but is silenced with the reproof that it is no time to talk of aught but liberty or death. Syphax finds him covered with confusion, and, recalling the days when he hunted lions and tigers, suggests that his Numidian troops shall secure Marcia for him, by carrying her off. The young prince scorns the idea as dishonourable, and, finding he has gone too far, Syphax pleads his devotion to sire and son, and they mutally agree to forget the warmth of youth and frowardness of age. The old traitor is soliloquising on the affront he has suffered,

when Sempronius comes to tell him he has tampered with Decius, and sent word to Cæsar of their adhesion to him. Their plans for a mutiny against Cato are also arranged, Syphax undertaking to hold his Numidian troops in readiness.

Marcus entreats his brother to plead his cause with Lucia, and retires in great agitation as she approaches. They are both unhappy at the thought that his grief at their union might kill him, and Lucia vows she will never marry while such a cloud hangs over them. Porcius begs her to recall the words, but she persists in bidding him farewell, and Marcus re-enters to learn his fate. He reads it in his brother's looks, and, disdaining her pity, exclaims, "What is compassion when 'tis void of love!" Trumpets sound, and, as they hurry away, he longs to fall in battle for some glorious cause. Several of the mutineers assemble in the square before the palace, and Sempronius, having addressed them, retires, in order that he may re-enter with Cato, his sons, and the other senators. Cato bares his bosom to the soldiers, but remorse moves them to tears, and he orders them to give up their leaders, whom Sempronius is charged to have put to death. Cato then exhorts his followers to remember the rights secured by their forefathers' blood, and invoking the spirit of liberty, retires with them. Sempronius reviles the mutineers as faint-hearted traitors, and orders the guards, who come to take them away for execution, to pluck out their tongues. Syphax enters to propose that his Numidian troops shall force the gate which Marcus guards, and clear their way to Cæsar's camp, promising to assist Sempronius in obtaining forcible possession of Marcia.

She and Lucia discuss their griefs, and retire on hearing footsteps. Sempronius enters dressed like Juba, with Numidian guards, whom he instructs to seize their prey on his giving them the word, when the young prince appears with his guards, and, challenging the impostor, kills him. Marcia re-enters with Lucia, and, mistaking the muffled body for her lover, passionately bemoans him. Juba comes forward to amaze and embrace her, and she is led away by her friend, blushing at having confessed her love, while he,

almost fearing it is a dream, exclaims, "Let Cæsar have the world, if Marcia's mine!" Lucius expresses his astonishment to Cato at the falseness of Sempronius, and as he replies that he is surprised at nothing, and is sick of the world, Porcius brings news of the flight of Syphax, and is sent to see that his brother acts a Roman's part. Cato declares the torrent bears too hard upon him, and reproaches Lucius for urging him to submit to Cæsar and be reconciled to life. Juba comes to blush for his countrymen's treachery, but is cheered by Cato's commendation of his virtue. Porcius returns with the dead body of Marcus, who has fallen nobly, and, ere he died, pierced the false heart of Syphax. His father is sustained by the reflection that he did his duty, and remarks, as he bends over the bier, "How beautiful is death when earned by virtue!" He adds that Cæsar shall never say he conquered Cato, and begs his followers to tell the usurper whatever was done against him, Cato did it. Turning to Juba, he says it will be no crime at Rome to have been Cato's friend. Then he advises his son to withdraw betimes to their ancestral Sabine seat; and warning his friends generally that the conqueror is at hand, he informs them that ships are ready to convey those who dare not trust the victor's clemency to any wished-for port.

Alone in his chamber, Cato is reading Plato's book on the Immortality of the Soul, and concurs with him that—"'Tis Heaven itself that points out an hereafter." Then, taking his sword, he assures himself that death and life are both before him, and contemplates the change unmoved by guilt or fear. Porcius enters, and is forbidden to touch the weapon; but his father blesses him and retires to sleep. On his way to see their friends embark, he allays Marcia's fears, and as she and Lucia talk of him, Lucius comes to tell them he seems to be dreaming pleasantly. Juba brings word that their foes are within an hour's march, and Porcius returns with the news that Pompey's son is heading a rising against Cæsar in Spain; but groans are heard, and Cato has fallen on his sword. He is brought in on a chair, and, asking from Lucius the hand of his daughter for Porcius, and giving Marcia to Juba, he dies.

JANE SHORE.

By NICHOLAS ROWE; written 1713.

Principal Characters.

RICHARD, *Duke of Gloucester.*	SIR WILLIAM CATESBY.
LORD HASTINGS.	LORDS OF THE COUNCIL.
DUMONT, *afterwards* SHORE.	
BELMOUR, *his friend.*	ALICIA, *a lady of noble birth.*
SIR RICHARD RATCLIFFE.	JANE, *the wife of Shore.*

Servants, guards, etc.

Period, 1484. *Locality : London.*

GLOUCESTER is in the Tower, asking Ratcliffe and Catesby—now that the queen and her relations are quelled, and the young princes safely lodged—does not the sceptre seem within his reach? Catesby replies that Hastings will never respond to the cry of, "God save King Richard," and hints that his allegiance to the fair Alicia is waning. His lordship enters to intercede for Shore's wife, who was Edward IV.'s paramour, but whose property has now been seized, and is told she may attend at the court, and shall be heard with patience. Belmour takes Dumont to her house, and introduces him as a reliable elderly attendant, he pretending to be a native of Antwerp, and that he was present at her husband's burial. Alicia is announced, and they retire; she comes with professions of sympathy, and, rallying her friend with having charmed the heart of the noble-minded Hastings, declares one common hazard shall attend them both, which induces Jane to entrust her with a casket of jewels, while she laments the hard fate of those of her sex who swerve from virtue's rule.

Alicia is at Jane's house watching for Hastings, who arrives at midnight, not expecting to encounter her. Unable to restrain herself, she reproaches him with his faithlessness,

after all her sacrifices for his sake, and retires, threatening that her feeble arm shall hurl him from his topmost height. He begs Jane's forgiveness for coming so late to tell her she is expected at the Tower to-morrow, and then solicits her love in return for his services; but she bids him choose one of the court beauties, and, calling for help, Dumont confronts and disarms the villain, who retires; and, telling her of a peaceful refuge provided by Belmour, she consents to accompany him thither.

The rivals meet at the court, and Jane tells Alicia that, Hastings having caused Dumont to be carried off to prison, her only hope now is in obtaining redress from the duke. She hands her for perusal the paper she has brought, but instead of it, Alicia gives her back another, which she presents to Gloucester as he passes, and is promised an interview. Calling Ratcliffe and Catesby aside, Richard peruses with them the substituted paper, the purport of which, to their astonishment, is that Hastings is willing to acknowledge him as king, but is deterred by Jane's influence. His lordship arrives, and, on testing his sentiments, Gloucester discovers he is disposed to support the young king, but dissembles with him, and accepts his warning with expressions of confidence, while Hastings owns to himself—

> "Beyond or love's or friendship's sacred band,
> Beyond myself, I prize my native land."

The duke relates the result of his interview to his other counsellors, who advise him to induce Jane to use her tongue in his behalf, and he talks with her alone. Instead, however, of being persuaded to favour his pretensions, she invokes every blessing upon Hastings for being the champion of the young princes, and is ordered to be turned into the street to perish, any one giving her the smallest comfort being threatened with death, and all her belongings confiscated for the profit of the state. At the council which follows, Gloucester meets a proposal to appoint the day for young Edward's coronation, by baring his arm, and declaring it has become withered through the sorcery of the late queen, in conjunction with Jane Shore; and on Hastings

suggesting a doubt of the fact, commands him to be arrested and executed within an hour. As Ratcliffe is hurrying him to meet his fate with courage, Alicia enters, distracted with grief at being his murderess, and obtains his forgiveness, on condition that she lets not the rancour of her hate pursue her unhappy friend; but she cannot endure his last thoughts being for her rival, and prays she may share all her sufferings and torments of despair.

Belmour tells Dumont, whose release he has obtained, of having met Jane in the street patiently bearing her fate, and that a churlish guard prevents any one from helping her. He vows he will, and is asked by his friend whether he feels able to resume a husband's name, and let resentment sleep. He recalls how he doted on her, and how she glanced at him as the royal spoiler bore her away in his chariot; and can she, who was so cherished, endure the beating of a storm so rude? They arrange to go different ways in search of her, while she, wandering about bare-footed, and longing for death, comes to the house of Alicia, but is refused admittance by the servant. As she sits at the door, however, her once bosom friend bids her begone, and rushes off raving. Presently Belmour approaches, and, asking where are the companions of her joyful days, points to Dumont coming to her aid. She recognises him, and, as they gently lead her homewards, Catesby, with a guard, overtakes and arrests them. Attempting to follow her husband, she sinks to the ground; and, breaking from the inhuman villains, he responds to her piteous entreaty for forgiveness, and, with nothing left to bestow upon him but one sad sigh, she dies.

THE REVENGE.

By EDWARD YOUNG; written 1721.

Principal Characters.

DON ALONZO, } *both in love with*	ZANGA, *a Moor, slave to Alonzo.*
DON CARLOS, } *Leonora.*	
DON MANUEL, *their friend.*	LEONORA.
DON ALVAREZ, *Leonora's father.*	ISABELLA, *Zanga's paramour.*

Servants, etc.

Period, 1490. *Locality*: *Spain.*

IN the midst of a storm Zanga is meditating on a battlement where Isabella seeks him, begging to share the trouble that hangs upon his heart. He tells her that he hates Alonzo, who, six years ago, killed his father in battle, and also for having one day struck him, declaring he has ever since moaned for vengeance, which he hopes he has now secured by warning the Moors of an intended attack upon their camp. Don Carlos, however, arrives at the palace with the news that they have been defeated by Alonzo, who, he informs Don Manuel, has been his advocate with Leonora while he was their prisoner; and that her father, knowing he is expecting a fleet bringing him wealth from the East, urges on the wedding. Don Alvarez enters with his daughter and leaves her with Don Carlos; but, instead of returning love for love, she is unable to restrain her tears, although he pleads that he fled from fame, and left Alonzo to face the enemy alone, to fling himself at her feet. Drums and trumpets announce the approach of the victor, and she begs leave to withdraw. Alonzo greets his friend, the thought of whose chains he declares inflamed him for the battle. Zanga interrupts them with a message from Manuel, begging for an interview with Carlos, who retires, when he informs his master that Leonora will come to him, and Alonzo bewails his wretched fate in having

preserved the life of a rival, the Moor secretly exulting. She finds the conqueror weeping, and, after pretending to reproach his treason to Carlos, confesses that she loves him; then she wonders that he is sorry for his friend, suggesting he shall stab her; but, assured of his passion, she declares she will follow his bright example of virtue, and leaves him in the depths of despair.

Don Manuel and Zanga discuss the wreck of the ships Don Carlos was expecting, and the refusal of Don Alvarez to allow the intended marriage, pleading that Leonora's heart is disinclined, and urging her espousal to Don Alonzo, whom he has discovered she prefers, but that he hesitates lest it should kill his friend. "Not if he consents," suggests Zanga, a new idea dawning in his brain; and, having ascertained from Isabella that Don Carlos was seen in the palace the night before the battle, he resolves to persuade his master to make the request, and then to excite his jealousy. Pretending to admire his wish to postpone causing Don Carlos fresh pangs, he artfully hints that princes are sighing for Leonora, and Alonzo hurries away to seek his friend. Exchanging a few words with Don Manuel, the Moor invokes the prophet's aid, and encounters Don Carlos, whom he endeavours to prepare for Alonzo's errand; but the idea of killing him enters his mind, and he begs for a day's delay, soliloquising on the apparent difference in the length of our happy and painful moments of existence. Zanga returns with Don Alonzo, and, after mutual self-reproaches and expressions of friendship between them, Don Carlos resigns Leonora to his rival, and then, while the Moor softly glories that his master-work begins to play, gives vent to the sorrows of his over-burdened heart.

Zanga confides to Isabella his joy that the nuptials have taken place, and that the love-letter he forged from Don Carlos to Leonora has been found by Alonzo, who started as if an arrow pierced his eye; he also gives her a picture of Don Carlos that she may secrete it in the bride's cabinet. Alonzo enters and tells his slave that Leonora is false, showing him the letter, which the Moor destroys, begging his master to think no more about it, but hinting that he has a secret in his breast, and then asking whether Don Carlos was not

sent by Alonzo to the court the night before the battle, which confirms his suspicions, and he confesses that he is being punished for having abused his friend's confidence. Quietly stinging him with fresh surmises, Zanga advises calm reflection, "it being jealousy's nature to swell small things to great"; and, as he retires, Isabella returns to say she has happily placed the picture, and the Moor asks himself whether it becomes a soldier thus to shock his nature that he may attain his end?

Alonzo tells Zanga he can bear the suspense no longer, and is determined to find his wife and force the secret from her; but this would kill the Moor's hopes, and, blaming himself for withholding the secret, which will dispel his master's doubts, he yields with assumed reluctance, and has just uttered the words, "Don Carlos did return at dead of night," when Leonora comes to fetch her husband to join their friends. She observes severity of thought upon his brow, but he assures her that she alone employs his mind, and that he will be with them forthwith. Zanga proceeds to say that Don Carlos told him he had letters from Alonzo to the king, and that he afterwards saw him and Leonora together in the garden. Alonzo groans, and the Moor's soul is refreshed as he affects to sympathise with his master's exclamations of despair and vengeance. Leonora comes again to summon him, and, alarmed at his strange manner, entreats he will tell her the secret which is troubling him; but he bids her go to her chamber and he will follow. Zanga returns, resolved that she must die, and Alonzo meditates on death "which joins us to the great majority"; the Moor assumes that he has killed her, and, thwarted by his hesitation, inquires whether he spares her for Carlos? Alonzo replies that her eyes have murdered him, and Zanga professes to lament how they who have caused his death will revel over his tomb. Goaded to distraction he commands him to see that Carlos dies; but Zanga tells him he knows not womankind if he imagines that Leonora will not soon find other lovers; or if he forgives her the world will call him very kind. Again he resolves that she must die, and, reminded by his slave of Greek and Roman deeds

in stern despite to nature, bids him invite the furies, despair and death, to the marriage festival.

Alonzo learns from Zanga that Don Carlos has been murdered, and tells him he has arranged to meet Leonora in the garden, where he will calmly spread the blackness of her crime before her sight, and give her to the grave. He finds her sleeping in a bower, and, as he his about to stab her, she awakes. He talks of love as heaven's expedient to cheat men of a peaceful tomb. She imagines he is thinking of his friend's death, of which she has heard, and bids him repair it with her love. Her eyes unnerve him, and, dropping his dagger, he leaves her to just Heaven. Zanga enters and, as she tells him her fears, he asks does she not perceive that her husband is jealous? She retires vowing she will not believe it; and the Moor consoles himself that there still lives hope of ruin. Alonzo returns and bids him begone, declaring that Heaven withheld his hand, and that he could not hurt her to be lord of earth. Leonora enters, and, in reply to her reproaches, he produces the picture; she bids him repent of his ungenerous thoughts; but he persists in believing her guilty, and—she stabs herself.

Alonzo calls for help, and, as Isabella leads Leonora away, she tells him she scorned to vindicate her innocence, and Zanga vows that vengeance still owes him much, when Isabella returns to tell him that Leonora is gasping her last breath, and her husband has thrice attempted his life. Alonzo enters, and the Moor informs him he has been abused, and that his anguish is to come; adding that Leonora is guiltless, that he urged Don Carlos to resign her, that he forged the letter, and caused the picture to be discovered, because—"I hated, I despised, and I destroy." "Inhuman slave!" exclaimed Alonzo, to which Zanga replies: "Fallen Christian, thou mistakest my character; I am the son of the Moorish king whom you slew, and my wages as your captive servant have been a blow!" Alonzo bemoans his fate, but the Moor reminds him that demi-gods and heroes have known their sorrows, and, attempting to kill himself, offers him an example how to die. Don Alvarez, however, enters with attendants, and Zanga is seized, Alonzo secreting his dagger. He learns from his

would-be father-in-law that, touched with remorse, Isabella has told all the dreadful tale, and Don Manuel brings the news that Leonora is dead. Alonzo orders the rack to be prepared for the Moor, who scorns the torture it will inflict, and stabs himself, telling the Afric he is revenged. Zanga begs leave to look one moment on the dead, and exclaims :—

"Is this Alonzo? Where's the haughty mien?
Is that the hand that smote me? Heavens, how pale!
And art thou dead? So is my enmity.
The conqueror of Afric was my foe;
A lion preys not upon carcases.
Terror and doubt fall on me—
Oh! vengeance, I have followed thee too far,
And to receive me hell blows all its fires."

DOUGLAS.

By JOHN HOME; written 1756.

Principal Characters.

LORD RANDOLPH.
GLENALVON, *his kinsman.*
OLD NORVAL.
YOUNG NORVAL, *afterwards* DOUGLAS, *Lady Randolph's son.*
DONALD, *a servant.*
LADY RANDOLPH.
ANNA, *her maid.*

Attendants, camp-rovers, etc.

Period, 1130. *Locality: near Carron, Scotland.*

LADY RANDOLPH promenades in the castle-yard, still sorrowing for the death of her first husband, Douglas, and her brother Malcolm, and the loss of her infant eighteen years ago. Lord Randolph enters and reminds her the living claim some duty, but that were he to perish, she would not shed one tear the more, adding that he is off to the camp, where every warrior waits to prevent the landing of the Danes. Anna comes to interrupt her mistress's solitary thoughts, and elicits the story of her misfortunes. Malcolm had saved the life of Douglas, the son of their father's foe, and, a few days after she had secretly married him, both were slain. She entrusted her son, as soon as born, on a dark December night, to a nurse, who set out with him to reach her sister's house, but neither had since been heard of. Glenalvon approaches, and her ladyship avoids him, but he consoles himself with the thought that the deed is doing which will make him the baron, and that she shall be his bride, in spite of his kinsman having rescued her from being seized by him.

A cry for help is heard, and Donald brings in a prisoner, Lady Randolph and her maid following. She is asking the meaning of the clamour, when his lordship and young Norval enter with their swords drawn, and her husband tells her that the youth has saved his life from an attack by four armed men. Asked who he is, he replies in the well-known lines commencing "My name is Norval, on the Grampian Hills," etc. Lord Randolph promises he shall henceforth fight in nobler lists, and Lady Randolph, who is strangely moved, that he shall be her knight. The baron takes him to the camp, ordering a feast to be ready when they return; and her ladyship tells Anna how the boy has kindled a fondness for him in her heart, and that she will deter Glenalvon, who approaches, from treating him as a rival in his kinsman's love. He informs her he has taken steps to secure the villains, and she warns him, at his peril, to refrain from practising aught against her husband's deliverer. Left to himself, he suspects that she is in love with Norval, and goes to seek the servant who accompanied him from his foster-parents' home.

Donald informs Anna that one of the assassins is secured, with jewels in his possession bearing the Douglas crest, and old Norval is brought into Lady Randolph's presence. Donald proposes to force the truth from him by torture, and she threatens that falsehood will entail instant death. He protests his innocence, and declares that eighteen years ago he found, floating in a basket on the river Carron, an infant, whom he and his wife brought up, giving him his name, and bought flocks and herds with the gold they discovered in his cradle. Lady Randolph exclaims, "It is my son!" and he recognises her as the daughter of his old master Sir Malcolm. She bids him communicate with another of her father's old servants, and gives directions for him to be put on his way thither. Talking over the wonderful recovery of her son with Anna, she agrees that caution will be necessary not to excite the baron's jealousy; and when Glenalvon brings word that the invaders have landed, she praises his valour, and bids him shield her husband, to which he replies that she has converted him, and that he will be her favoured youth's defender also. After she retires, however, he

chuckles at having lulled her stormy virtue, and successfully tampered with Norval's companion.

Lord Randolph meets his wife on his return with alarming news of the Danish foe, and Glenalvon and Norval join them. The baron orders his kinsman to lead his troops at dawn, while he travels to the royal camp with his young guest, who relates how he acquired his military knowledge from an old hermit who had been a soldier in the first crusade. Trumpets sound, and Donald announces that the valiant John of Lorn and his troops hail the noble Randolph; and Glenalvon is sent to offer them hospitality. Lady Randolph, in a private talk with her son, reveals his parentage, and his right to the lands and castle held by her husband; also telling him she has sent him a note appointing another meeting, and warns him against the wiles of the expectant heir. The baron re-enters with Glenalvon, and as she hastily leaves them, they express their suspicions, having intercepted her letter to Norval, and arrange to overhear what passes during the interview. In the meantime Glenalvon undertakes to explore the boy's spirit, while his lordship listens. Douglas enters, and, treating his insolent questioner with high-bred scorn, they are about to fight; but the baron intervenes, and their quarrel is deferred, Douglas intimating to his adversary, as they go in to supper, that their strife is mortal.

Old Norval meets his foster-son in a wood near the castle, and, entreating forgiveness for having so long withheld him from his birthright, warns him that his life is in danger. Douglas awaits his mother's coming, meditating on his changed prospects, and yearning for renown. Lady Randolph joins him, and he tells her of old Norval having heard the baron and his kinsman vowing revenge. She bids him fly to the camp, but he proposes they shall go to the castle and trust to the fidelity of the old servants. She, however, persuades him to seek an interview with his uncle, Lord Douglas, and they part. Lord Randolph enters with Glenalvon, who secretly resolves that both lover and husband shall die, while the baron pursues Douglas, who appears behind, followed by his kinsmen. Her ladyship returns, and her son enters with Glenalvon's sword, whom he has

killed; but he is wounded, and, repining at his cruel destiny, dies in his mother's arms. Lord Randolph comes forward blaming his kinsman for having seduced him to frantic jealousy, and his wife, overwhelmed with grief, rushes out, followed by Anna, who returns to tell him she has thrown herself from a precipice. Ordering the funerals to be with cost and pomp, the baron goes straight to battle, hoping he will never return.

THE HYPOCRITE.

By Isaac Bickerstaff; written 1765.

Principal Characters.

Sir John Lambert.
Colonel Lambert, *his son.*
Darnley, *Charlotte's lover.*
Doctor Cantwell.
Charles Seyward, *his ward.*
Mawworm, *a pious shopkeeper.*
Old Lady Lambert, *Sir John's mother.*
Lady Lambert, *Sir John's second wife.*
Charlotte, *Sir John's daughter.*
Betty, *her maid.*

Period, 1765. *Locality: London.*

SIR JOHN tells his son that he is an atheist, and that he does not approve of Darnley's character. The colonel replies that he has been influenced by the doctor, who he hints is a religious mountebank; but his father warns him to amend his errors, or take the consequences, and intimates, as he departs, that he has another suitor for his daughter. Charlotte enters and, on hearing of her father's intention, enjoys the idea of indulging in a spirit of contradiction, on the strength of her fortune of twenty thousand pounds, telling her brother that she is a coquette, and that a rival will cure Darnley's jealous temper. Her lover is announced, and, having teased him with the news, she retires, leaving the colonel to allay his uneasiness. Darnley asks whether Lady Lambert is against him, but is assured she will persuade Sir John from acting unjustly; and her step-son adds he has a shrewd suspicion that the sanctified doctor is in love with her. As they leave the room he enters with the old lady, and, declaring himself a worthless creature, confesses to having struck the lap-dog for snarling at him, and that he feels he must quit the family by whom he is too much pampered; but she begs him not to talk of doing so, and he meekly submits. The colonel and Darnley return, and, being warned by the

doctor that the play-house is the devil's hot-bed, retort that he is a canting hypocrite. He retires to complain to Sir John, followed by the old lady; when the colonel explains that she introduced him to be the family chaplain, and that his father has fallen into his snares. Charlotte enters with the doctor, whom she accuses of having rudely intruded into her chamber, and, dismissing him, is encouraging Darnley's hopes, when her father interrupts their colloquy and carries her off.

Seyward is musing over a document which disinherits the colonel, and Charlotte also, unless she marries with the doctor's consent, and his secret love for her induces him to prevent its execution. Sir John, entering with his wife and daughter, sends him to copy hymns for the doctor, whom he informs Charlotte he has chosen to be her husband, and leaves her with Lady Lambert, adding that he has arranged to settle an estate upon him. The colonel comes in, and, on hearing his father's decision, elicits from his step-mother that the chaplain's behaviour to her has been unbecoming, and suggests that she shall afford the opportunity of exposing him to Sir John. The old grandmother calls to insist upon Charlotte wearing thick muslin over her neck, instead of lace which shocks the good doctor, who she tells them has weaned her from all sublunary vanities. Sir John enters with the chaplain, who declares that riches have no charm for him, but that he accepts the trust his friend would confide to him lest the money should fall into wicked hands; and it is arranged that he shall have a talk with Lady Lambert, whose influence may induce Charlotte to accept him. Mawworm has a conversation with the old lady and the doctor, who takes possession of a purse she would have given to their visitor for a poor widow, while he tells them that he wants to go a-preaching, instead of keeping a shop, but his neighbours say his head is turned, and the boys pin crackers to his coat tails. He proceeds to explain, in comically contorted language, that until he and his wife knew the doctor they were very worldly-minded; but now he has given up skittles and other fantastical delights, and they have a child! The old lady departs, and the doctor tells Seyward to have the deed ready, as it will

probably be required during the afternoon. He resolves to obtain an interview with Charlotte, who discovers his feelings towards her, and learns from him that the doctor has appropriated his mother's fortune, and forced him to be his accomplice in wicked impostures. He then shows her the deed, which gives the doctor an immediate annuity, and the entire control of her father's estate. She borrows it for an hour, and, pretending that she dines abroad, hurries off in a chair to consult the family lawyer.

On her return she disquiets Darnley by declining to trust him with the cause of her absence, and retires to examine a paper handed to her by Seyward, who replies to his request for an explanation that he is able to keep a lady's secret. The colonel enters, and, having promised to ease his friend's anxiety if he will take a walk, questions his sister, who is about to enlighten him, when Lady Lambert comes to tell them she has arranged to put the doctor to his trial, and they retire. He enters and declares that he is not in love with Charlotte, but with her ladyship; she threatens to expose him unless he renounces all claim to her step-daughter; and the colonel, who has been listening, advances and gives vent to his indignation. The offender, however, pretends he was talking of his passion for Charlotte, and Sir John, who comes in to learn what is the matter, accepts the doctor's version, orders his son to quit his sight for ever, and insists upon signing the settlement at once.

Charlotte questions Seyward, who tells her that he saw it signed, sealed, and delivered, neither Sir John nor the doctor taking the trouble to examine a line of it. She hopes that her brother will be able to help him, and adds that she will always appreciate the motive which actuated his services to them. Lady Lambert comes to warn her that Sir John has consented that the doctor shall be his own advocate, and, as she retires, Betty announces him. Replying to the expression of his fears, she admits that she entertains the worst possible opinion of him, and would rather die than consent to be his wife. He rejoins that, notwithstanding her antipathy, he would willingly make her happy, by agreeing to her marriage with Darnley, if she can satisfy his conscience, and accepts her proposal to give him

half the money she will forfeit without his consent, professing that he is actuated solely by worthy motives! As he retires Darnley arrives to tell her that Seyward will probably recover his fortune; and, tired of teasing her lover, she forgives his jealousy, but adds that he has galloped a mile beyond the winning-post, and declines to complete his happiness; the colonel, however, interposes, and having insisted upon her naming the wedding-day she consents, and retires with her betrothed.

He is telling Charlotte that she must not break her agreement with the doctor, when her father and his wife enter, and Sir John informs Darnley that he has bestowed his daughter on a better man. She asks whether the doctor has not resigned his interest in her; and, revealing the bargain she has made with him, intimates that she intends to marry Darnley. Sir John is confounded, but Lady Lambert hints that she has a serious accusation against the doctor, and offers to convince her husband of his villainy. He agrees to conceal himself behind a screen, and her ladyship awaits the doctor, who has been told by her maid that she desires to speak with him alone. He enters, and fastens the door; she laments the unfortunate interruption of their last conference; and, leading him to imagine that she responds to his feelings towards her, reproaches him with preferring Charlotte; but he declares that he has urged Sir John to give her to Darnley; and, when she tells him that he must answer for her folly, he replies that her husband is weak, and he can lead him by the nose anywhere! Sir John advances, and, acknowledging he has been duped, bids the impostor begone; he retorts that the house is his, and his victim admits it; but Lady Lambert defies him, and he retires to find Seyward. The old lady and Mawworm, on their way to a religious controversy, call for the doctor, and are scandalised at the idea of his being guilty of the horrible designs imputed to him. Charlotte rushes in to say that the doctor has shot his ward, and they enter with Darnley. Seyward explains that, having refused to perjure himself, the doctor fired at him; and, on demanding his liberty, he is stopped by the colonel, and arrested by a constable as a cheat and an imposter. He, however, pro-

duces the deed, and Sir John is stung to his heart; but Charlotte comforts him by explaining that, with Seyward's assistance, another copy, in which the colonel's name appears instead of Cantwell's, was substituted for the original, and the doctor is carried off. Darnley owns that his jealousy is banished for ever; and, having rewarded him with his daughter's hand, Sir John renounces from henceforward all pious folks; but she begs him to distinguish between true virtue and its counterfeit.

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER.

By Oliver Goldsmith; written 1772.

Principal Characters.

Sir Charles Marlow.
Charles Marlow, *his son.*
Squire Hardcastle.
Tony Lumpkin, *his step-son.*
George Hastings, *Miss Neville's lover.*
Diggory, *a talkative servant.*
Mrs. Hardcastle.
Miss Kate Hardcastle.
Miss Constance Neville, *Mrs. Hardcastle's niece.*
Pimple, *Miss Hardcastle's maid.*

Landlord, villagers, servants, etc.

Period, 1760. *Localities: a Country House and Village.*

MRS. HARDCASTLE vows to her husband that she wants a trip to town, to rub off the rust of their country life, which he loves; and then talks of her son Tony, who his step-father complains is full of mischief, but she fears is consumptive. He passes through the room on his way to the alehouse, and, refusing to be detained, disappears with his mother clinging to him. Kate enters, and, after laughing at her superfluous finery, her father announces that he is expecting the young gentleman he has chosen as her husband, whose qualifications he extols, and she believes he will do. The squire retires to prepare the servants for his reception, while Kate confides the news to her cousin Constance, who is delighted to learn that the visitor, Charles Marlow, is a friend of her lover. Tony is drinking punch and singing with several shabby villagers at the *Three Pigeons*, when the landlord informs him of the arrival of two travellers who have lost their way, and introduces Marlow and Hastings. The young squire tells them that Hardcastle is a cross-grained old fellow, with an ugly daughter and a pretty son; and as his house is a long way off, they had better put up for the night at the *Buck's Head*, which is only a mile further, and one of the best inns in the county.

As the squire is drilling his servants, a coach drives into the yard, Tony having sent the travellers to his step-father's house, and they are shown into the dining-room, the comforts of which they duly appreciate. Hastings makes fun of Marlow's lack of assurance at the idea of facing his intended bride, and Marlow owns that he came to forward his friend's happiness rather than his own. Presently Hardcastle, whom they take for the landlord, enters, and begs they will use no ceremony, his house being Liberty Hall. He begins telling them a reminiscence of the Duke of Marlborough, in the midst of which they call for punch; and when he proceeds to talk of Prince Eugene, they demand the bill of fare, and Marlow insists on seeing that their beds are properly aired, to the host's intense astonishment. Constance enters as they retire, to find her lover has arrived with his friend, and undeceives him as to the house being an inn, dispelling at the same time his fears of her cousin's rivalry. He proposes that they shall elope at once, but she says she must first secure her jewels, of which her aunt has the custody, and they agree in the meantime not to enlighten Marlow. He returns, and, being told the young ladies have accidentally alighted while they changed horses, is introduced to Constance and then to Kate, who inspires him with courage by assisting his efforts at conversation. His timidity returns, however, when left alone with her, and, as he makes an excuse for retiring, she wonders whether she shall be able to cure him of his bashfulness. Constance pretends to coquet with Tony, while Hastings flatters Mrs. Hardcastle, and she rallies her son, who declares he will have his fortune, and be fooled no longer, upon which his mother and cousin retire. He then tells Hastings his objections to Constance, and that he will gladly assist him in whipping her off to France.

The squire is wondering how Sir Charles could have described his son as the modestest young man in town; and, on expressing his surprise to his daughter, who is in plainer attire, she takes her suitor's part, and offers to satisfy her father that he is mistaken in his impressions of him. Tony, meanwhile, hands the casket containing Constance's jewels, which he has abstracted from his mother's

bureau, to Hastings; and advises her, when he hears his cousin asking for them, to say they are lost, telling Constance privately what he has done with them; and, on the old lady returning to declare her bureau has been broken open, and the jewels taken away, her son laughs at her distress. Pimple tells Kate that Marlow has mistaken her for the barmaid; and resolving to keep up the delusion, she encounters him alone, and leads him on to make love to her, and talk about his London acquaintances. The squire overhears them, and upbraids his daughter with deceiving him, but she undertakes to convince him to the contrary within an hour.

Marlow has told a servant, who brought him the casket from Hastings to take care of, to deposit it with the landlady, who is puzzled at recovering it; and, meeting his friend, confesses his love for the barmaid, and, to the dismay of Hastings, what he has done with the jewel case. The visitors' servants are all drunk, and when Marlow coolly informs his host they were told to indulge freely, he can contain himself no longer, and insists that they shall at once leave the house. His guest distracts him still more by saying he chooses to stay, and calling for the bill. Marlow wonders whether he has mistaken the house, and is confounded on learning from Kate, who still conceals her identity, how he has been imposed on. He apologises, however, for having trifled with her, and regrets that their different positions render marriage impossible; while she mentally acknowledges his merit, and determines to persevere in securing him. Tony is explaining matters to his cousin, when they hear the old lady approaching, and pretend to fondle. She promises they shall be married to-morrow, and her sweet boy shall defer the rest of his education. Diggory, however, brings a note, which Constance reads, and pretends it is only from one of Tony's alehouse companions; but he hands it to his mother, who discovers that it is from Hastings, to say he is waiting for Miss Neville with a chaise and pair, and asking him to provide fresh horses as promised. Venting her rage on both, Mrs. Hardcastle bids her niece prepare to be placed in security with her old Aunt Pedigree, and her son to

escort them on horseback. They mutually blame each other; Hastings taxes Tony with betraying him; Marlow comes to reproach them with having made him contemptible; Constance denounces her cousin as the cause of all their embarrassments; he offers to fight both his antagonists, and, as she is hurried away to her aunt, bids them all meet him at the end of the garden two hours hence.

Sir Charles has arrived, and is being entertained by the squire with an account of his having been mistaken for an innkeeper, and the prospect of the young folks liking each other, when Marlow comes to ask pardon for his conduct, and denies that anything but respect and reserve has passed between him and Miss Hardcastle; while Kate, who enters as he retires, declares that he has professed a lasting attachment to her, and invites the old gentleman to be behind a screen in half an hour, and hear him declare his passion. Tony enters the garden just as Hastings is thinking what an idiot he is to be expecting him, and declares that, although he has ridden twenty-five miles, he has left the ladies where he found them! He explains that he led their chaise into a muddy lane, where they stuck fast; then up and down hill, and over a heath; and, after a circumbendibus, lodged them in a horse-pond close by. Hastings is full of gratitude, and rushes off to release Constance, leaving Tony to frighten his mother still more by hinting they are forty miles from home, and that a robber is approaching, and she hides behind a tree. He proves to be the squire, and Tony tells him his mother and her charge are safe with Aunt Pedigree; but he insists that he hears another voice, and the old lady, not recognising him, rushes forward, and, falling on her knees, begs "good Mr. Highwayman" to spare her poor boy. Relieved as to her whereabouts, she abuses the graceless varlet to whom she owes all that has happened, who retorts it is the fruit of spoiling him, and her husband laughs at her discomfiture. Kate sends Sir Charles in search of the squire to keep their appointment; and Marlow comes to take leave, and to assure her of the pain he feels at the separation. Still personating the barmaid, she bids him go, leaving her only the mockery of his addresses. The listeners come forward

as he declares that he cannot leave her; and, learning from them his mistake, he is confused with their taunts, in which she joins; but her father prevents his despairing effort to escape, and they all forgive him. Mrs. Hardcastle enters with the news that Constance and her lover have gone off; but as Sir Charles is expressing his approval of Hastings, they come in to explain that her late father consented to the match; and Tony, being told that he has been of age for three months, makes the first use of his liberty by refusing to marry her. His mother turns against her undutiful offspring, Hastings insists upon Kate accepting Marlow, and the squire joins their hands, declaring that the mistakes of the night shall be crowned with the merry morning.

THE MAN OF THE WORLD.

By CHARLES MACKLIN ; written 1773.

Principal Characters.

LORD LUMBERCOURT.
SIR PERTINAX MACSYCOPHANT.
HIS SON CHARLES, *alias* EGERTON, *in love with Constantia.*
HIS SON SANDY, *whom he has disowned.*
HIS CHAPLAIN SIDNEY.
MELVILLE, *alias* HARRINGTON, *Constantia's father.*
SERGEANT EITHERSIDE.
COUNSELLOR PLAUSIBLE.
LADY RODOLPHA LUMBERCOURT, *in love with Sandy.*
LADY MACSYCOPHANT.
CONSTANTIA, *her protegée.*
BETTY HINT, *an upper servant.*

Tomlins, and other servants.

Period, 1773. *Locality: London.*

BETTY gives directions for the letters just arrived to be brought to her, and expresses her belief that Constantia is in serious trouble, and that there is to be a private wedding between Lady Rodolpha and Charles, who she tells John, the gardener, has taken the name of Egerton on succeeding to his uncle's estate. She sends John with a letter for Constantia, who is loved by everyone, and of whom she is jealous, and resolves to confide her suspicions to the chaplain. Egerton enters with Sidney, who is endeavouring to dissuade him from a secret marriage with his lady-love in opposition to his father's plan being in love with her himself, but promises to wait while he fetches her that they may advise with him. While he is gone Betty comes to tell the chaplain that through the keyhole she has heard and seen Charles proposing to Constantia, whom she plainly hints has another sweetheart, protesting, however, that she hates taking away a person's good name. She retires exulting that his reverence believes her, while he mentally re-

marks that envy is as malignant in a waiting wench as in a court lady.

Egerton returns with Constantia, but Sidney has left the room, and she proposes to defer the subject, telling him she has been startled and alarmed by finding a case of jewels and two bank bills in her desk, which he admits having placed there, and urges her to consent to his wishes. She, however, replies that she cannot sting his mother's heart by seducing him into such an unequal match, and retires. Lady Macsycophant arrives in great distress because her son failed to attend the levee, which has seriously incensed his father. Charles begs her to agree to his marrying Constantia and leaving the country; but she persuades him not to act rashly, and, hearing her husband's voice without, withdraws. Sir Pertinax enters, abusing his son for disobeying his commands, and gives him a lesson in court behaviour and political prudence. He then explains how he has succeeded in making Lord Lumbercourt his dependent instead of his patron, and settled that Charles shall marry his daughter, and Tomlins announces that Lady Rodolpha has arrived. Charles is sent to receive her with a torrent of flattery, while his father sneers at his ridiculous ideas of honesty and patriotism, which he fears will ruin his scheme and break his heart. Lord Lumbercourt enters and relates how he caused one of his creditors to be cudgelled, adding, however, that the sheriff's officers have seized his carriage and other belongings, on hearing which his friend undertakes to stay their proceedings, obsequiously professing it to be his duty to oblige his lordship. Tomlins brings a message from two militia officers inviting themselves to dinner, and Lady Rodolpha leads in Lady Macsycophant, Egerton, and Sidney. Sir Pertinax bows low and exchanges compliments with his intended daughter-in-law, who jokes with Egerton, and entertains the company with her recent experiences at Bath, whither persons of all conditions who have made money flock, to learn gentility and intrigue from people of fashion. Sidney declares she has enabled him to see the whole assembly, and as Egerton leads her into dinner she remarks that hearts are not brought into the account of human dealings nowadays, to which he replies

that they are no more to be depended upon than the weather or a lottery ticket.

Sir Pertinax is again finding fault with his son for slinking away from table instead of swallowing half-pint bumpers with the militiamen at his lordship's bidding, which might have prevented a warm squabble about the marriage settlement. Charles objects that when he was intoxicated would not have been a seasonable time to settle business with their guests; but his father tells him that manœuvring is as necessary for rising in the world as bowing, which has an infallible influence on the pride and vanity of human nature.

He proceeds to give him a short sketch of the stages by which he managed to acquire a noble fortune. Coming to London from the North with a scant education, and some prudent paternal advice, he assiduously attended chapel until he fell in with a rich old maid, whom he married in a fortnight, and buried within a month. Then he ran away with his second wife, whose family had influence, and wriggled himself into parliament, where, by watching and dangling, he gained the confidence of the then great man, and so got a snack of all the political bonuses, until he became wealthier than half the golden calves he had bowed down to. His lordship is heard singing, and comes in with a dish of coffee, boasting of having pushed the bottle vigorously; he also rallies Egerton for deserting them, and intimates that his daughter fancies there is a demur on his side about the marriage. The lawyers arrive, and Lady Rodolpha having been sent for, is told that the deeds will be signed forthwith, and left alone with her betrothed that they may setttle their arrangements. They comment aside on the dilemma they are in, and then she asks, "When will he begin to make love to her?" intimating that, like an ancient romance, they must be mutually smitten at first sight. He accuses her of raillery, and she bewails having come at the command of her grandmother, to marry a man who has no more affection for her than if she had been his wife these seven years! He replies that he can never give his hand where he cannot give his heart. She pretends he has affronted her, and insists upon his promise that no consideration shall iuduce him to take her as his wedded wife.

She then acknowledges that he has made her as happy as a reprieved convict, and confesses to being as deeply smitten with a certain swain as he is with Constantia, whom she informs him is—his own brother! and they retire to consult with his mother.

Sir Pertinax is very wroth with Sergeant Eitherside for persisting that Lord Lumbercourt shall retain the nomination to his three boroughs; but Counsellor Plausible advises him not to break off the match, hinting that the sergeant's motive is that he has been promised by his lordship the first vacancy. "Why, then, the short road is the best with sic a man," exclaims the old Scotchman; "tell him that I will secure him a seat, and beg his acceptance of this bank bill for his services in acting as a common friend for baith of us." Lord Lumbercourt enters with his counsellor, and Plausible suggests that he and the sergeant shall retire to reconsider the point, to which their clients agree. During their absence Sir Pertinax persuades his lordship to conclude the agreement as it stands, and the lawyers undertake that everything shall be ready in less than an hour. Meanwhile Charles is sent for by his father, who insists upon his support in a political question to which he is opposed, and endeavours to convince him that conscience is an unparliamentary word, and that an oath in public business has nothing to do with religion. A servant brings word that the writings are prepared, when Charles openly avows his love for Constantia, and, positively refusing to marry Lady Rodolpha, leaves Sir Pertinax overwhelmed with disappointment and despair.

Betty reveals what she knows and suspects to her master, who bids her obtain further particulars, and to keep a strict watch on Constantia, resolving at the same time to make use of the chaplain's love for her. He accordingly sends for Sidney, ostensibly to thank him for his care of Charles, and to suggest his wife's *protegée* as a suitable partner for him, mentioning that her father had a vast estate, which he dissipated in extravagance. The chaplain replies that it cannot be; upon which Sir Pertinax deplores his son's infatuation for the girl, and invokes Sidney's aid in contriving a dishonourable solution of the difficulty, insults him for not jumping at such an opportunity to oblige his

patron, and predicts that he will never rise in the Church. Betty returns with the information that Constantia has been seen in company with a gentleman, and has just written a letter addressed to Mr. Melville, which John is carrying to him, and he passes the room with it. Sir Pertinax insists on taking possession of it, and thinks he has secured a treasure. Sending for Charles and his mother, he pretends he has decided not to oppose their wishes any longer, but asks his son what he would think if the idol of his heart had an intrigue with another man, and produces the letter, in which she begs her correspondent to convert the jewels and money to his own use, and with many endearing expressions, signs herself—"Your dutiful Constantia Harrington." Reproaching him and his mother for their conduct, Sir Pertinax now insists on Charles signing the articles of marriage; but he hesitates on the ground that he has reason to believe that the lady is engaged to another. Lord Lumbercourt comes to say everything is ready, and jokes her ladyship about her *protegée's* flirtation. Tomlins informs Sir Pertinax that a gentleman below says he must speak with him directly, and is ordered to fetch him, while Lady Rodolpha begs Lady Macsycophant to grant Constantia an interview, but her husband forbids it. Melville is shown in and declares that parental affection has brought him from India in quest of his only child, Constantine. Sir Pertinax refers him to the lodging of her supposed sweetheart Melville. He, however, produces the jewels, and accuses Egerton, who bids him clear her of Melville and he will satisfy his fears. "I am Melville," he replies, "and my daughter was brought to me by my old tenant, the dread of my creditors inducing me to change my name from Harrington." Egerton retires with his mother, while his father fears that his affairs are again ruined, and wonders his visitor has not snapped up a fortune in the Indies. They return with Sidney and Constantia, whose father Egerton satisfies by announcing their marriage, and Sir Pertinax, vowing he would move heaven and earth to beggar them, comforts Lord Lumbercourt by proposing that Lady Rodolpha shall marry his other son Sandy, to which she at once agrees, and her father retires, remarking that, so long

as his affairs are made easy, she may wed the Cham of Tartary for aught he cares. Sir Pertinax retires, intimating that Lady Macsycophant will have a jointure, that she may live with her son, her *protegée*, and the black sheep; Lady Rodolpha takes leave with general good wishes; and Melville regrets being the cause of disagreement between father and son; but Egerton reminds him that he has no share in it, and that his fortune is ample, and will be dedicated to the happiness of their domestic circle.

THE JEALOUS WIFE.

By GEORGE COLMAN; written 1775.

Principal Characters.

LORD TRINKET.
SIR HARRY BEAGLE.
MAJOR OAKLY.
MR. OAKLY, *his brother.*
CHARLES OAKLY, *their nephew.*
CAPTAIN O'CUTTER.
MR. RUSSET, *a country squire.*

PARIS, *Mr. Oakly's servant.*

LADY FREELOVE.
MRS. OAKLY.
HARRIOT RUSSET, *Charlie's lady-love.*
TOILET, *Mrs. Oakly's maid.*

Servants, etc.

Period, 1775. *Locality*: *London.*

MRS. OAKLY shows her husband a letter which she has intercepted, and insists upon knowing its contents, telling him he is a false man. On reading it, he finds it is from Mr. Russet to his nephew, charging him with being privy to his daughter's elopement; but she declares that he is deceiving her, and, snatching the letter from him, retires as the major and Charles enter. Mr. Oakly upbraids his nephew with having decoyed Miss Harriot from her father, and Charles rushes after his aunt to obtain the letter, while the major jokingly tells his brother that jealousy is a sign of love, and suggests he shall show his spirit by dining with him at a tavern. Mr. Oakly goes to fetch his hat, unperceived by his wife, and Charles returns, miserable at the thought that Harriot is offended with him for his foolish rioting, and has left her home to avoid being forced to accept Sir Harry. His uncle adds to his distress by hinting that if she is with her aunt, Lady Freelove, she will arrange a match for her with Lord Trinket. Mr. Oakly comes back to say the coach is ready, but his wife follows him, and, attacking the major for his interference, makes her husband say he will stay at home. Charles

also declines his uncle's invitation, and hurries away in pursuit of his lady-love.

Sir Harry is at an inn, talking with a servant about his horses, and of having traced his intended bride to town, when Mr. Russet enters, and reproaches him with indifference towards his daughter. He replies that the chase will cost him a thousand, and suggests a descriptive advertisement of her; the servant, however, brings word that she was fetched from the inn by a fine lady in a chariot, and her father starts off, hoping to find her with Mrs. Oakly, leaving Sir Harry to inquire at Lady Freelove's. Still suspecting her husband, Mrs. Oakly endeavours to draw the secret from him, by pretending to believe his version of the story; but is scandalised at his proposal that they shall offer the young lady a home until her father arrives in town; and he learns from the servants that she has told them to admit no visitors, and has ordered her carriage. Lady Freelove reads a note, and sends for her niece, who is in her own chamber writing. She tells her she has acquainted her father that she is safe, and that she wonders at her choice, when she might marry Lord Trinket to-morrow, to which she is expressing her objections when his lordship is announced. Lady Freelove flatters him, but Harriot does not respond to his advances; she learns from him, however, her father's address, and begs her aunt to see and pacify him. A servant whispers to her ladyship that Sir Harry is below, and, while she pretends to go to some lady visitors in another room, Lord Trinket forces his attentions upon her niece; Charles, however, arrives opportunely, and during a fight between them, Harriot escapes. Lady Freelove interposes, and having promised Sir Harry an interview with her niece, after having denied she was in the house, is disconcerted to find her gone. He and Lord Trinket take their leave; and with mock civility, which he retorts, her ladyship shows Charles the way out.

Lord Trinket returns to assure her that he meant no harm, and she is advising him to renew his proposal to Mr. Russet, when Captain O'Cutter calls to thank her for obtaining him an appointment as captain of a press-gang. His lordship promises him a ship, and he undertakes to seize two fellows

who have offended him, as well as to carry a challenge to Charles. Mrs. Oakly is then announced, and Lord Trinket retires. She comes to learn what has really occurred, and Lady Freelove leads her to believe that Mr. Oakly is the object of her niece's affections, to the amusement of his lordship, who overhears their conversation. During her absence from home, Harriot calls there, and telling Mr. Oakly her troubles, begs permission to remain at his house for a few days, and his assistance in effecting a reconciliation with her father. Mrs. Oakly returns, and listens while he explains that she would object, but that he will take a lodging for her; on hearing this she comes forward, declaring she understands the whole affair, and insists upon Harriot leaving. Mr. Russet, however, enters to demand satisfaction from Mr. Oakly for encouraging his daughter's elopement, and, preventing his endeavours to explain matters, Mrs. Oakly carries him off; then Charles comes in drunk, and father and daughter retire.

The major is with his nephew next morning when Captain O'Cutter arrives, but, instead of a challenge from Lord Trinket, he hands Charles another letter; the meeting, however, is arranged, and he leaves. The other letter is from his lordship to Lady Freelove, and contains Harriot's address at the inn, whither her lover hastens, leaving his uncle to visit his brother, and encourage him in rebelling against his wife's domination. Harriot is bewailing her distresses, when Sir Harry enters and bluntly tells her she shall marry him; she declines, and he goes to her father, who comes to insist that she shall have him, and adds that he is going for a licence and a parson. Charles watches him and Sir Harry depart, and is endeavouring to persuade Harriot to escape with him, when a servant runs in to tell them that the gentlemen have been seized by a press-gang, followed by Lord Trinket, who demands the lady. Charles, however, produces a pistol, and waves his lordship aside, telling him he will find them both at his house, and they retire.

Lady Freelove and Lord Trinket reproach the captain for his blunder with the letters, and, at her ladyship's suggestion, he is sent to release the squire and his friend, and be their escort to Mr. Oakly's house, where she and his lordship will

meet them. Mrs. Oakly, meanwhile, is perplexed at her husband's absence, and is ordering and countermanding the servants, when she is told he has returned with the major, Charles, and the young lady. Toilet brings them word that she is not well, and wishes to see her husband; he vows he will not go, but retires to his study to hear how she takes his refusal. Lord Trinket arrives with his released prisoners, and Harriot is told by her father she shall marry Sir Harry that night; he replies that he has swopped her with his lordship for a horse! Mr. Russet is furious, but the major offers to prove that his lordship contrived the seizure, and Charles produces the letter, which satisfies him that his daughter is innocent; and when he consents to her marrying young Oakly, Sir Harry goes off to secure his horse and be out of town in an hour. Lady Freelove enters, and, learning the course of events, congratulates the young couple, and offers to make peace between Lord Trinket and Charles, coolly ignoring his lordship's allusion to the crossing of his letters. Mr. Russet, however, taxes her with being the cause of the insult offered to him, as well as of that to which his daughter was subjected in her house; but she sneers at his vulgar insinuations, and retires, followed by Lord Trinket, who wishes them all joy with affected nonchalance. Mr. Oakly now returns, convinced of his wife's artifices to work upon his feelings, and, as the major is urging him to be firm, she comes in and threatens to leave the house. He replies calmly to her outbursts of temper, and, after striving in vain to have her own way, she sobs and feigns being in a fit. Finding this makes no impression on him, she vows vengeance; but Harriot succeeds in persuading her she has misapprehended all that has happened, and, assured of her husband's forgiveness, she confesses the arts which her jealousy induced her to practice, and resolves for the future never to suspect at all.

THE RIVALS.

By RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN; written 1775.

Principal Characters.

SIR ANTHONY ABSOLUTE.
CAPTAIN ABSOLUTE, *alias* ENSIGN BEVERLEY, *his son.*
MR. FAULKLAND, *in love with Julia.*
MR. BOB ACRES, *a country squire, in love with Lydia.*
SIR LUCIUS O'TRIGGER.
FAG, *Captain Absolute's servant.*
DAVID, *Mr. Acres' servant.*
MRS. MALAPROP.
LYDIA LANGUISH, *her niece, in love with the captain.*
JULIA MELVILLE, *Sir Anthony's ward.*
LUCY, *Lydia's maid.*

Coachman, servants, etc.

Period, 1775. *Locality*: *Bath.*

FAG meets Sir Anthony's coachman, from whom he hears that his master and household have just arrived, and tells him that the captain is passing as Ensign Beverley, in order to secure his wealthy lady-love, Miss Languish. She is at her aunt's lodgings, and Lucy has just brought her some sensational novels, when Julia arrives. Lydia tells her that the old lady has intercepted her correspondence with Beverley, and fallen in love with an Irish baronet; also that Acres, whom she detests, is expected, and that she has quarrelled with her lover. Julia replies that she is capricious, but defends Faulkland, who has saved her from drowning, from a similar reproach. Their conversation is interrupted by the entry of Sir Anthony with Mrs. Malaprop, who makes use of absurdly inappropriate words and phrases, and reproaches her niece before him for refusing to give up Beverley. He declares it is the natural consequence of teaching girls to read, and elicits the old lady's ideas of what a young woman should know. The object of his visit, however, is to propose his son as a husband for Lydia, and Mrs. Malaprop undertakes to give Mr. Acres his discharge, and prepare her niece to receive the captain. As soon as Sir Anthony leaves, she retires to write to Sir Lucius; and Lucy, whom

she warns against being imposed upon, reads to herself a list of the presents she has received for helping Miss Lydia and the ensign, betraying them to the old lady, carrying letters for Mr. Acres, and Sir Lucius, and leading the latter to believe that he is corresponding with the niece, instead of her aunt.

The captain is informed by Fag of his father's astonishment on hearing he is in Bath, the reason for which he concealed by consistent lying; and he receives a visit from Faulkland, to whom he imparts his fear that, although Lydia is willing to sacrifice her fortune and to elope with him as Beverley, she would not agree to a formal wedding, and the reversion of a fortune on his side. His friend confesses the apprehensions he has suffered during his absence from Julia, but professes to be cheered with the news that she has arrived with her guardian, and is in perfect health and spirits. Acres is announced, who the captain tells Faulkland is a rival of his without knowing it, and how ridiculous it is to hear him abuse Beverley. His account of having met Julia in Devonshire, and of her cheerfulness in society away from her lover, quite upset, Faulkland; and when he leaves, Acres describes his efforts to improve his personal appearance to please Lydia, and a genteel method of swearing, which he learned from a militia major. Sir Anthony is his son's next visitor, and comes to announce that he has resolved to fix him in a noble independence, but that the fortune is saddled with a wife. He refuses to give the lady's name, and, failing to obtain the captain's promise to marry her, vows that he will disown and disinherit him. Lucy meets Sir Lucius on the parade, and gives him Mrs. Malaprop's letter, signed *Delia*, intimating her own doubts as to his means, to which he replies he is so poor that he cannot afford to do a dirty action. She then has a talk with Fag, telling him who the letter was from, and of having overheard the conversation between Sir Anthony and his son.

They encounter each other in the street, and the captain, with assumed penitence, professes that he is ready to submit to his father's will, pretending, when informed who the lady is, not to remember her, and to be unmoved at his

description of her attractions, which greatly irritates the old gentleman, who declares that, if his son is not mad with rapture on seeing her, he will marry the girl himself. Julia has a conversation with Faulkland, who upbraids her with inconstancy for having been mirthful in his absence, and she leaves him in tears. The captain calls on Mrs. Malaprop, who shows him a letter she has intercepted from the beggarly ensign, in which he speaks of her as the old she-dragon; and she consents to his proposal that her niece shall be allowed to plot an elopement, when he will contrive to carry her off. The old lady goes to prepare Lydia for an interview with him, and she is astonished at being confronted by Beverley, instead of his rival. Pretending he has deceived her aunt, he is conjuring her to fix the time when he may rescue her, and she is persuaded how charming poverty will be with him, when they perceive Mrs. Malaprop listening, and Lydia exclaims that Beverley is her choice, upon which her aunt comes forward to apologise for her rudeness, and leads her away. Acres has just completed his toilet, and David agrees that dress is all in all, while he complains that the new fashionable dances are as bad as algebra to country gentlemen. Sir Lucius is announced, and, on hearing from Acres that he has a rival, insists that he must fight him, and dictates the wording of the challange, intimating that he is expecting a similar affair with a gay captain, who has put a jest on him.

David endeavours to persuade his master not to fight, but he replies that he cannot risk the loss of his honour, or disgrace his ancestors, and that he will not be made afraid. The captain, whom he has sent for, arrives, and undertakes to deliver the letter to Beverley, but declines acting as second. He promises, however, to tell the ensign that his challenger is known as "Fighting Bob," which, Acres remarks, may prevent mischief, as he does not want to kill him. Mrs. Malaprop asks Lydia whether Captain Absolute is not a handsome man?—to which she replies,—so is Beverley. But her aunt objects to comparisons, and is dilating on the captain's perfections in her peculiar phraseology, when Sir Anthony and his son are shown in. Lydia sits with her back to them, and the captain pretends

his modesty prevents him from speaking to her. When he whispers, however, she maintains he is Beverley, and Sir Anthony and her aunt agree she must be mad, until her lover explains matters, upon which she sullenly remarks,—"then there will be no elopement." His father is propitiated, but the old lady remembers the comments upon her in the letter; he tells her, however, they must forget and forgive, and leads her away. Left alone with her lover, Lydia resents the trick he has played her, and, when the old people return, she renounces him; but Sir Anthony tells Mrs. Malaprop she must make peace for his son, and they disperse. The captain is muttering that he was never in a worse humour, when he meets Sir Lucius, who recalls to his memory the affront he offered him, and they appoint a meeting at King's Mead Fields. Faulkland overtakes his friend, who opens his heart to him, and, having secured his services as a second, learns that he has quarrelled with Julia. A servant, however, brings him a letter from her, begging for a reconciliation; but he fretfully remarks that women's pardon, like their love, should not unsought be won.

He leads her to believe he has been drawn into a quarrel which compels him to fly the kingdom, and she offers to accompany him; but when he confesses it is merely a device, suggested by his mistrust of her love, she tells him she will never be his wife, and leaves him in despair. Lydia declares to Julia that she shall die with disappointment at the prospect of a fashionable wedding instead of a sentimental elopement; but is entreated not to inflict unhappiness on a sincere lover by her foolish caprice. Mrs. Malaprop and David enter with the news that Acres, the captain, and Faulkland have arranged a duel, and, when she learns that Sir Lucius is with them, she hurries away with her niece and Julia, and David as their guide, to prevent mischief. Sir Lucius is pacing the distance, which Acres begs may be increased, and, when asked if he has any commissions in case of an accident, admits that his valour is oozing out, and wishes he were safe at home. The captain arrives with Faulkland, whom Sir Lucius mistakes for Beverley, and, on

matters being explained, suggests that Acres shall fight his real rival, which he declines, but offers to be his second. Sir Lucius disdains him as a coward, and has drawn his sword to fight the captain, when the ladies arrive with Sir Anthony and David. Mrs. Malaprop calls the captain to Lydia, but Sir Lucius interposes, addressing her as Delia; she, however, solicits the return of her lover's affection, and Acres declares that if he cannot get a wife without fighting for her, he will remain a bachelor. Sir Lucius produces Mrs. Malaprop's letters to him, and she owns the soft impeachment, but he declines the honour, and, being refused also by Acres, she declares that men are all barbarians. Julia then forgives her lover, Sir Anthony telling her he will mend surprisingly; Acres invites them all to a dance; Faulkland and the captain agree that they have tasted the bitters as well as the sweets of love; and Julia indulges in a flowery moral as they retire.

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.

By Richard Brinsley Sheridan; written 1777.

Principal Characters.

Sir Peter Teazle.
Sir Oliver Surface.
Sir Benjamin Backbite.
Sir Harry Bumper.
Joseph Surface, } *Sir Oliver's*
Charles Surface, } *nephews.*
Crabtree, *Sir Benjamin's uncle.*
Careless, *Charles's friend.*

Rowley, *Old Surface's steward.*
Moses, *a money-lender.*
Snake, *a villain.*

Lady Teazle.
Lady Sneerwell, *a widow.*
Mrs. Candour.
Maria, *Sir Peter's ward.*

Trip, and other Servants.

Period, 1775. *Locality: London.*

LADY SNEERWELL is arranging with Snake to circulate some scandals, and confesses that, having been wounded by slander in early life, she knows no pleasure equal to reducing others to the level of her own reputation; she also confides to him that, in order to secure Charles Surface, she is conniving with his brother against the attachment between him and Maria. Joseph enters to report that some of her stories have already taken effect, and declares that Charles, who has had another execution in his house, can only be reclaimed from his dissipation by her. Snake retires to copy a letter, and Maria comes in to avoid the malicious wit of Sir Benjamin and his uncle, who have just called at her guardian's house. Mrs. Candour, whose affected benevolence she also dislikes, is announced, and tells her the town is talking of her affair with Charles being off, and of Sir Peter and his wife not agreeing, as well as

various other rumours she has heard. Then she pretends to condole with Joseph about his brother, and Sir Benjamin and Crabtree arrive. They retail more scandals, and, asking Joseph whether his uncle is coming home, talk of Charles being in the hands of the Jews, which he affects to resent; and, the other visitors having left, Lady Sneerwell undertakes to plot fresh mischief, while he studies sentiment. Sir Peter asks himself when an old bachelor marries a young wife what he is to expect? and is miserable at her extravagance. He tells Rowley she is always in the wrong, and that Maria rebels against his disapproval of her choice, expressing his belief that Joseph, whom he wishes her to marry, is a model young man. The old steward replies that he believes Charles will retrieve his errors, and that Sir Oliver has arrived, but does not wish his nephews to be told until he has made trial of their dispositions.

Lady Teazle tells her husband that if he wanted authority he should have adopted, instead of marrying her; and, after a long wrangle, he admits to himself that she never appears to such advantage as when she is plaguing him. At a card-party at Lady Sneerwell's, Sir Benjamin reads an impromptu epigram, and Lady Teazle and her ward arrive. Maria is placed to picquet with Joseph, whom her ladyship expected would talk with her, and Mrs. Candour joins in the scandals, which she pretends to deprecate. Sir Peter enters, and reminds them that true wit is more nearly allied to good-nature than they seem to be aware, adding that he would like to see an act for the preservation of fame as well as game. As the company pass into another room, Lady Teazle surprises Joseph pleading on his knees with Maria, and, sending her away, demands an explanation. He pretends that she suspects them, and threatened to tell Sir Peter, at the same time inviting her ladyship to come and see his library; but she declines, and reminds him that she admits him as a lover no further than fashion requires. Sir Oliver is amused on hearing from Rowley of his old friend's marriage, and refuses to be prejudiced against Charles, remembering that neither his brother nor he were very prudent youths. Sir Peter welcomes him, and, grieving for his younger nephew, pledges his life on Joseph's honour;

but Sir Oliver doubts, and says he has arranged a plan with Rowley for discovering their merits.

Rowley explains that a Mr. Stanley, a near relative of the Surfaces on their mother's side, has applied to both for pecuniary help, and that while Joseph has given him nothing but evasive promises, Charles has done all his own affairs allowed, and intends helping him with some of the money he is endeavouring to raise. The steward therefore proposes that Sir Oliver shall personate Stanley, which will enable him to judge of his nephew's benevolence. Moses, however, is waiting to assist in investigating Charles's affairs, and Rowley adds that he has detected Snake in a matter which will remove some of Sir Peter's suspicions. The Jew informs them that he meant to have brought with him a Mr. Premium to negotiate a loan, upon which it is arranged that Sir Oliver shall personate him, and then visit his other nephew as Stanley. Maria enters, and tells Sir Peter that she has obeyed him in not corresponding with Charles, but that she will never give her hand to his brother. As she leaves, Lady Teazle comes to ask for money, and, after trying to agree, they quarrel again, and he declares that he believes the reports relating to her and Charles. Sir Oliver and Moses arrive at Charles's house, and while they are waiting to see him, Trip tries to borrow from the Jew on his own account. Charles is entertaining Careless and Sir Harry, who sings "Here's to the maiden of bashful fifteen," his companions joining in the chorus; the visitors are then introduced, and, as they refuse to drink, Charles is left alone with them. He offers extravagant interest and a post-obit on his uncle's life, from whom he has great expectations, as security, pretending that he is breaking fast, and still, as he believes, at Calcutta. Asked what he has to dispose of, he replies nothing but a room full of ancestral portraits, which they may have at a bargain. Sir Oliver is shocked, and mentally resolves he will never forgive him.

They proceed to the gallery, where Careless acts as auctioneer, using the parchment pedigree as a hammer, and Charles bids him knock down the pictures at various prices; excepting, however, that of his uncle (who Careless remarks has a disinheriting countenance), which he persists in refus-

ing to part with, acknowledging that Old Noll has been very good to him. This mollifies Sir Oliver, who, as Premium, hands him a draft for more than the sum total, and says he will send for the pictures in a day or two. Careless advises Charles not to squander the money in paying his debts; and Rowley, who comes in, and wonders to find him in such spirits, is told to take a hundred pounds at once to old Stanley. As the purchasers depart they meet the steward, who tells them his errand, which pleases Sir Oliver, and he is ready to be introduced to the elder brother as Stanley. Joseph is expecting a letter from Lady Teazle, when his servant announces her, and, complaing of Sir Peter's jealousy, she wishes he would let Maria marry Charles. Joseph pretends to agree, and to condole with her at the scandalous tales circulated against her by Lady Sneerwell, intimating that she should comfort herself by deserving them. She demurs, however, to his logic, and the servant interrupts them to say that Sir Peter is on the stairs. She goes behind a screen, and as her husband unburdens his mind to his supposed friend, she hears her would-be lover pretend to condole with him, and praise his generous intentions towards her, in the midst of which Charles is announced! Sir Peter makes for the screen, and, swearing that he saw a petticoat, is told 'tis a little French milliner, and conceals himself in a closet, that he may hear their conversation, and be convinced that his suspicions are groundless. Joseph elicits a declaration of innocence from his brother, accompanied by a reminder of having seen her ladyship with him; and, on being told that her husband is listening, pulls him out of the closet, and they shake hands. A servant informs Joseph that Lady Sneerwell is below, and he goes to send her away, whispering to Sir Peter not to mention the milliner. He however tells Charles, who, just as his brother returns, throws down the screen, and leaves Sir Peter to obtain satisfaction. Joseph attempts an explanation, but Lady Teazle replies that there is not a syllable of truth in it, and reveals his dishonourable conduct, confessing that her husband's tenderness has penetrated her heart.

The convicted villain is hardly in a temper to receive

a poor relation when Mr. Stanley is announced, and Sir Oliver and Rowley are shown up. His visitor hints that he imagines his uncle's bounty will enable him to be charitable; but he replies that what he has done for him has been a mere nothing, and the sums he has lent his brother deprive him of the pleasure of offering any present assistance to his mother's relative. Just as he has bowed him out, Rowley hands him a note informing him of his uncle's arrival, and he sends him a message that he will be delighted to see him, while he inwardly curses his ill-luck. Mrs. Candour seeks an interview with Lady Teazle, ostensibly to condole with her, but really to obtain intelligence which she may circulate. As she waits, Sir Benjamin arrives, and they dispute whether Joseph or Charles is the culprit. Then Lady Sneerwell brings word that a duel was fought with swords, and Sir Peter wounded, followed by Crabtree, who declares he has a bullet in his throat, and her ladyship hurries off to seek better information. Sir Oliver approaches, and is mistaken for the physician, but he laughs at their different versions of what has happened, and points to Sir Peter, who resents their comments, and insists on their leaving his house, hoping their venom may choke them. Rowley enters, and Sir Oliver tells his friend he has interviewed his nephews, and rallies him on his partiality for Joseph. Sir Peter, finding they know all, makes up his mind never to face his acquaintances again; but Sir Oliver advises a reconciliation with his wife, and Rowley promises to satisfy him that the letter on which his suspicions rest was forged by Snake.

Lady Sneerwell arranges a further plot with Joseph, who comforts himself that Sir Peter will hold his tongue, and that he will soon discover his uncle's weak side. Instead, however, of Sir Oliver, whom he is expecting, Stanley (as he believes) reappears, and he is insisting on his leaving, when Charles arrives, and asks his brother if he also has been borrowing of Premium; but hearing their uncle (as they imagine) at the door, they are both attempting to put the intruder out, when Sir Peter and Lady Teazle, with Maria and Rowley, confront them. Joseph exclaims,—"'Tis now complete," and is denounced in turn by his uncle, Sir Peter,

and Lady Teazle. Charles's follies are made light of, and he assures Sir Oliver of his gratitude to his liberal benefactor. At Lady Teazle's suggestion, Maria is asked to express her sentiments, but she resigns him to one who has a better title, adding that his own heart and Lady Sneerwell know the cause. Her ladyship reproaches him with perfidy, which Joseph declares that Snake will make clear; but he convicts, instead of supporting her, and, taunted by Lady Teazle, she retires, wishing her husband may live fifty years! Snake begs that, as he lives by the baseness of his character, his honesty may not be betrayed; and Charles declares that his wife shall also be his monitor and gentle guide.

THE POOR GENTLEMAN.

By GEORGE COLMAN, the younger; written 1793.

Principal Characters.

SIR CHARLES CROPLAND.
WARNER, *his steward.*
SIR ROBERT BRAMBLE.
FREDERICK BRAMBLE, *his nephew.*
HUMPHREY DOBBINS, *his valet.*
LIEUTENANT WORTHINGTON.
CORPORAL FOSS, *his servant.*

OLLAPOD, *an apothecary.*

FARMER HARROWBY.
STEPHEN HARROWBY, *his son.*
SIR CHARLES'S VALET.
EMILY WORTHINGTON, *the Lieutenant's daughter.*
MISS LUCRETIA MACTAB, *his dead wife's aunt.*
DAME HARROWBY.
MARY HARROWBY, *her daughter.*

Period, 1790. *Locality: Kent.*

DAME HARROWBY and Mary are expecting the farmer back from London, and he returns with a new drove of cattle, to hear that their lodgers, the lieutenant, his daughter, Miss Lucretia, a sour old maid, and their soldier servant, have arrived. Then Stephen enters, dressed up in military style, and explains that the corporal has been drilling him; but his father threatens to beat the craze out of him, and he marches off singing, while his sister intercedes for him, and leaves the old couple to talk of the Lieutenant having a shattered arm, and only his half-pay to support those dependent on him. The farmer, however, vows he will never be hard upon a man who has wasted his strength in guarding his country; and, when he tenders his rent in advance, begs him to settle with the greedy shopkeepers first, and offers him the free use of a horse, which offends his dignity, and aggravates his bitter reflections concerning his motherless child. Sir Charles, who has just arrived at his adjacent country seat, abuses his valet for talking of the charms of springtime away from London; and an interview with his steward, who warns him against encumbering his estate by gambling, is interrupted by a visit from the apothecary, who has lately joined the

local volunteer corps as a cornet, and tells him, among other gossip of the neighbourhood, of the farmer's lodgers. Sir Charles recognises his description of Emily as the very girl who slipped through his fingers in town, and bribes his friend with a dog and a gun to help him in renewing the acquaintance. The farmer has a chat with the corporal, who dilates on what a military officer has to endure, and tells him how seventeen years ago his master's wife was shot in his arms, leaving him a little child; and, after a few months, a shell at Gibraltar disabled the lieutenant and him from further service; since when they had lived in Canada, until his honour returned a year ago to England. As his father goes to the farm, Stephen comes to inform Foss that, while marching by the side of his cart, he let the horses drag it into a bog; and then Ollapod joins them, and, as a soldier, covets acquaintance with the lieutenant, but the corporal declines to introduce him without consulting his master. Emily discusses family matters with her great-aunt, and is unable to understand the objection of her grandfather, Lord Lofty, to his daughter's marriage with her father, who is as worthy of respect as the proudest peer. Miss MacTab replies that she has allowed him the honour of maintaining her ever since she was left penniless, and would have made her niece's fortune by marrying her to Sir Charles, if she had not rejected his advances.

The corporal enters, and finding Emily in tears leads her away. He then announces the apothecary, who, introducing himself to Miss Lucretia as a military man, proceeds to offer his professional services to the family. Her contempt, however, is mollified on learning that he is aware of her having connived at Sir Charles's visits to Emily, unknown to her father, and consents to arrange another interview between them.

Sir Robert Bramble, who also has an estate in the neighbourhood, indulges in an argument with Dobbins, and then inquires for his nephew, who has just arrived from Russia, where his father has failed in business. Frederick joins them, and pleases Sir Robert by his independent spirit. Proceeding to business with his valet the baronet arranges to help a poor man in prison, and to send the curate a

horse; and, on hearing about the lieutenant, Frederick rushes off to call upon him, followed by his uncle. Stephen meets the corporal, and while telling him that he has been experimenting in mining and blown up the pigstye, singeing the little pigs, and blackening the old white sow, Mary gives Foss a letter for his master, and her brother proposes that they shall wash the pigs in the milk pails. The lieutenant asks the corporal where the ladies are, and is told they have gone for a walk; then they talk of the battle in which they lay wounded side by side, and he reads his letter which informs him that, owing to the sudden death of a friend, he is answerable for a bond of five hundred pounds, He sinks into a chair exclaiming that his child will be destitute; and, while Foss is promising that she shall never want while he can help her, Frederick arrives, and proffers the assistance which every man owes to his fellow. The lieutenant hesitates, but is won by his visitor's manner, and consents to be under a temporary obligation to him, when he remembers that, although his heart is full, his purse is empty, and he is dependent on his uncle's bounty. Sir Charles and Ollapod are waiting in a wood towards which Miss Lucretia and her niece advance, and, in spite of Emily's objection, they meet. The apothecary leads the aunt towards a stile, while Sir Charles makes dishonourable proposals to Miss Worthington, and endeavours to hurry her away with him, when Frederick runs to her assistance and threatens to flog the baronet, who challenges him and retires. As Emily is explaining that her relative is in the adjoining field, Ollapod comes to tell them that she has tumbled up to her middle in the mud, and is politely snubbed by Frederick, who obtains permission to restore his charge to her father. The lieutenant is uneasy that his child does not return; and, seeing two strangers approaching, imagines them to be the officers charged to arrest him for the debt. They are, however, Sir Robert and his valet; but to their astonishment he treats them as bailiffs, until Emily arrives with her escort, and, having explained matters, retires with her father. On hearing of the challenge the baronet offers to be his nephew's second, and, when Frederick confesses he has lost his heart, threatens to cut him off with a shilling.

Ollapod meets Frederick in the wood and hands him Sir Charles's challenge; Sir Robert joins them; the apothecary retires to fetch the pistols, and uncle and nephew discuss the situation, and go home to prepare for the event. The lieutenant talks with his servant about accepting an invitation from Sir Robert; and then with Emily, warning her against wedding without love, and that he may be imprisoned. Miss MacTab enters, abusing the quack who left her in a ditch, and intimating her intention of retiring to Scotland, which delights the corporal, who has arranged with Stephen to keep a sharp look-out to scare away the bailiffs. Sir Charles and his second await the enemy in the plantation named for the duel, and Frederick and his uncle join them. While Ollapod is stepping the distance, Sir Robert suggests that the matter may be arranged, but Sir Charles declines, and the combatants have taken their ground, when the lieutenant interrupts them with the intention of chastising Sir Charles, who, seeing the ladies approaching, apologises for his conduct and retires. The apothecary begs Miss Lucretia's pardon for leaving her in the ditch, but she spurns him; while Sir Robert makes Frederick and Emily trustees for her father's bond, which he has paid, and obtains his consent to their marriage.

THE HEIR-AT-LAW.

By GEORGE COLMAN the younger; written 1795.

Principal Characters.

DANIEL DOWLAS, *a chandler, supposed heir of Baron Duberly.*
DICK DOWLAS, *his son.*
DOCTOR PANGLOSS, *Dick's tutor.*
HENRY MORLAND, *the real heir to the Barony.*
STEDFAST, *his friend.*
ZEKIEL HOMESPUN, *an evicted farmer son.*
KENRICK, *Miss Dormer's servant.*
DEBORAH DOWLAS, *Daniel's wife.*
CAROLINE DORMER, *Morland's betrothed.*
CICILY HOMESPUN, *Zekiel's sister.*

Servants, waiters, etc.

Period, 1795. *Locality: London.*

LADY DUBERLY tells her spouse he must drop the tradesman, and learn life and manner, now that he is a peer of the realm, with fifteen thousand a-year, through an advertisement inserted by Lawyer Ferret for the heir to the old lord, whose son was supposed to have been lost at sea. She talks of the elegant people who have been so kind and friendly, while he grumbles at having been hooked into play and losing his money. Doctor Pangloss is announced, and she retires, that his lordship may have a lesson in speaking English. The doctor interlards his conversation with classical quotations, and boasts that, having been admitted a member of the Society of Arts, he has the privilege of appending A double S to his name. He then endeavours to correct his patron's misuse of words, and undertakes to meet Dick, who is expected from Derbyshire, where he has been articled to an attorney, and to be his tutor, with a salary of three hundred a-year, the prospect of which puts him all in a fluster. Zekiel has arrived at the *Blue Boar* with his sister, hoping to find a situation for her and employment for himself, accompanied by Dick, who is Cicily's lover, and who wonders why his father has sent for him. While waiting for some dinner after their journey,

they see an advertisement that a young lady requires a maid-servant, and, rejoicing at such good luck, adjourn to their meal.

Caroline Dormer, whose father has recently died a bankrupt, is awaiting at her lodgings the reply of a friend of his to whom she has written for help. Kenrick brings a message that he cannot be of the smallest service to her, and the old servant is condoling with his foster-child, whom his wife nursed, and reminding her that, Lord Duberly and his son being dead, he is now her only protector, when Zekiel's voice is heard inquiring for her. He enters with his sister, explaining that they have come in answer to the advertisement. Caroline sympathises with and engages Cicily, and Zekiel's fears on hearing of an Irish male-servant are set at rest when he sees that Kenrick is an old one. The doctor alights from his lordship's chariot at the *Blue Boar*, and inquires for Dick, who, fearing bad news, is electrified on learning that his father is a lord; and, having startled his tutor with an intimation of the services he will expect from him, promises to double his pay. As they are leaving the inn Zekiel returns, and, asking the meaning of his friend's altered manner towards him, is told that he is now the Honourable Mr. Dowlas, upon whose good offices he may depend. His companion deprecates any change in their feelings towards each other, and they shake hands, Dick confessing to himself the struggle in his mind between pride and old friendship, and Zekiel making allowance for him.

Stedfast welcomes Morland back to London after their wanderings in foreign lands, and declares that although a bachelor, and without relations, every lad and lass he meets calls forth his affections. Morland yearns for news of his father and Caroline, of whom he has had no tidings since he and his fellow-traveller were wrecked off Cape Breton. Stedfast undertakes to prepare Lord Duberly for the reappearance of his son, who is supposed to have perished, and is warned that his lordship is somewhat stately and dignified, but a polished gentleman. Lady Duberly asks the doctor how my lord comes on in his learning, remarking that there is no making a silk purse out of a sow's ear, and, objecting to Dicky's brains being battered with too much study, insists on his tutor giving him lessons in dancing,

with an intimation that the grey mare is the better horse, and if he follows her directions she will double his pay. Lord Duberly enters with his son in fashionable attire, and they are talking of their wealth, and each of them promising the doctor three hundred a-year, when Mr. Stedfast is announced. His lordship sends Dick to the library, where he will find plenty of learning, and a sight of French books, all written by *Tom*, while he receives his unknown visitor. Stedfast endeavours to explain matters, but is thunderstruck at his lordship's vulgarity and apparent indifference to the news which he brings him; and when he retires the porter is ordered never to admit him again. In another room Dick remonstrates with Zekiel for calling at such an unfashionable hour, and on hearing that Cicily is unhappy at his not having been to see her, coolly suggests that, in his altered position, it is impossible for him to marry her, but that they can be man and wife without the ceremony. Zekiel in tears indignantly rejects the proposal, and threatening to avenge with his fists any hurt to his sister, leaves Dick to meditate whether he will listen to the upbraiding of his heart or follow the career of fashion.

Cicily declares her heart will break, but Zekiel tries to comfort her, and Miss Dormer comes in, to whom he shows a paper which belonged to his father, and she tells him it is an old lottery ticket worth inquiring about. She then elicits from his sister the cause of her grief, and Kenrick returns from the city with the news of the failure of the bank where the two hundred pounds, which was all his mistress possessed, had been deposited. Cicily offers to share the little she has with her, and old Kenrick declares she is a little angel in a mob-cap! Dick tells his tutor he cannot rest until he has seen his lady-love, and the doctor quotes precedents from the classics. They reach the house, and, reproaching her lover for his cruelty, Cicily tells him they can never meet again; but he assures her that his change of rank dazzled him, and if she will forgive him, his heart and fortune are at her service. On his way home he confides his happiness to the doctor, and insists on his dancing a jig down the street with him as he sings, "Over the hills and far away."

Kenrick is sitting on a doorstep meditating on Miss Dormer's misfortunes, and his friend's refusal to lend him money to help her, when Morland approaches talking with Stedfast of his troubles, and recognises him. The old man is wild with joy, and having assured Henry of Caroline's safety, obeys his request that he will conduct him to her, and explain all that had happened on the way, Stedfast accompanying them. Lord Duberly tells his wife that the old madman has called again with a young one, but he cannot make out what they want, and that Dick will break his heart if he is not allowed to marry the servant wench, reminding her ladyship that she was only a clear-starcher when he wedded her. The doctor enters, and, in reply to their inquiry, names a lord who married his tenant's daughter, but is reminded that his pupil's marriage will diminish his income. Dick joins them, and having, to his tutor's dismay, persuaded his mother to give her consent, the family coach conveys them to call upon Cicily. She is telling Miss Dormer of Dick's penitence, and offering to help her when they are married, when Zekiel arrives in high spirits at having got twenty thousand pounds for the lottery ticket, and begs his sister's friend to accept as many hundreds as she needs. Lord and Lady Duberly enter and introduce themselves, Caroline receiving them with astonishment, and Zekiel with contempt. Dick follows with the doctor, but, when he advances to Cicily, her brother interposes. He, however, accepts his old companion's contrition, and Dick introduces Cicily to his parents. The doctor, on hearing of Zekiel's good fortune, offers to be his tutor; but Kenrick, pushing him aside, tells Caroline "he's coming," and Henry clasps her to his heart. Old Dowlas gradually realises that he has only been a peer's warming-pan, and his wife that she is no longer my lady. Zekiel is glad that he can now help his friends, and Morland promises to make provision for Dick's father and mother. The doctor, addressing the new lord, proffers his services as tutor—should his nuptials with Caroline be blest with a boy; and Dick, agreeing to Zekiel's proposal that they shall take a farm, confesses that, in spite of the allurements of riches and titles, the most valuable possession is a true friend.

PAUL PRY.

By JOHN POOLE; written 1825.

Principal Characters.

COLONEL HARDY.
FRANK HARDY, *his nephew.*
MR. WITHERDON, *an old bachelor.*
WILLIS, *alias* SOMERS, *his nephew.*
MR. STANLEY.
HARRY STANLEY, *his son.*
PAUL PRY, *a meddler.*
GRASP, *Steward to Mr. Witherdon.*
DOUBLEDOT, *an inn-keeper.*
SIMON, *Colonel Hardy's servant.*
ELIZA HARDY.
PHŒBE, *her maid.*
MARIAN, *Willis's wife.*
MRS. SUBTLE, *Mr. Witherdon's housekeeper.*

Period, 1825. *Locality: A Country Village.*

SIMON is telling the inn-keeper that the colonel has arranged a marriage for his daughter with a man she has never seen, but that she is in love with some one else, when they are interrupted by Paul Pry, who is curious to learn from Simon when the wedding will take place; and irritates Doubledot by mentioning that he stopped a carriage to recommend its occupant to his inn, but that he was annoyed with him for doing so, and has put up at the *Green Dragon*. He also remembers that, a week ago, he took from the postman a letter for Miss Eliza, which he had forgotten to deliver to her. At Mr. Witherdon's house, Mrs. Subtle and Grasp are talking of their control over the old baby, and of Colonel Hardy having persuaded him to receive Willis and Marian as servants; then they taunt each other with having intercepted his correspondence with his nephew Somers, and poisoned his mind against the poor lad and his wife, besides robbing him. But they agree they have nothing to gain by quarrelling, and he proposes to her. She, however, has other thoughts, and, as he retires, resolves she must bring Mr. Witherdon to a decision at once, when she can turn Grasp to the dogs. Witherdon enters with the

colonel, who invites his friend to dine with him, and, eliciting that he thinks favourably of Willis and Marian, tells him he will repent having neglected his nephew. Left alone with Willis, he confesses he has not the courage to resist the authority his steward and housekeeper exercised over him, but adds that the letters they read from his nephew convinced him of his ingratitude and disobedience. Mrs. Subtle comes to take him for a walk, and Grasp very unwillingly complies with his direction to hand some money to Willis, when Paul Pry drops in, hoping he don't intrude, and offers to accompany the walkers, but Mrs. Subtle says they have something to speak about. Then Willis retires on being joked about Marian being a suitable match for him, and Paul begins questioning Grasp, who also bids him good morning; and, as he is going away, he sees a young man trying the lock of the colonel's garden gate. Phœbe enters the garden, regretting she is in the country instead of London, followed by Eliza, who agrees with her, and they talk of Frank being on his way home from sea. Phœbe indulges in a song about a youth mistaking a monkey for his lady-love, and they hear the sound of a flute, upon which Eliza confides to her maid that she has a lover—Harry Stanley—who came to see his sister at her school. The colonel comes to tell them he expects a gentleman, whom he intends shall be his daughter's husband. Phœbe hints she may not care for him, but he replies that love has nothing to do with marrying, and he expects obedience, refusing even to mention the gentleman's name. As they talk, a stone comes over the wall with a letter attached to it, which Phœbe claims; but the colonel reads, and learns that the writer is prevented from following it by some impertinent fellow who is watching him, and Paul is detected peeping through the key-hole of the gate. On attempting to explain, he is abused for his interference, and shown out, the colonel believing his daughter innocent but suspecting Phœbe, and resolving he'll have an eye on both of them.

Mrs. Somers tells her husband how difficult she finds it to endure Mrs. Subtle's insolence, and he hints his belief that she is plotting a marriage with his uncle, when they enter arm in arm, and signify their wish to be left alone. Mrs.

Subtle pretends to be jealous of Marian, and, asking Witherdon's advice whether she shall accept Grasp's offer, declares her heart takes no part in the question; but, just as she is realising her hopes, Paul Pry comes in with an account of a prodigious gooseberry! Whispering to Mrs. Subtle that he sees things with half an eye, he tells Witherdon he has been watching a young fellow lurking about the colonel's house; and, as he is endeavouring to induce him to go and talk to his friend about it, he sees Harry, and runs through the window in pursuit of him. Grasp enters at the same time to request a conversation with Mrs. Subtle, and to say that Mr. Willis wishes to see his master. Eliza and Phœbe hear cries without, and Harry jumps in at their open window, explaining that he is pursued. He tells them he came down because his father insisted he should marry some dowdy of his own choosing, and on learning that the colonel has similarly provided a husband for his daughter, proposes to Eliza that they should elope at once. The colonel's voice, however, is heard, and Phœbe pushes Harry into another room, just as he comes in with pistols and demands who is the culprit. Phœbe suggests it is only some one robbing the orchard; but the dogs bark, and Paul appears at the window with his clothes torn, declaring he is not the man. The colonel threatens to commit him for trespass, but he persists that he saw the fellow enter the room, and tries to open the inner door, protesting he is there. Phœbe repudiates the insinuation, and Simon is called to show Paul out. She then admits there is a young fellow in the room, but tells the colonel it is his nephew, who has arrived earlier than was expected. Harry pretends to be Frank, and is informed that his cousin is soon to be married, to which he replied that he will certainly be present at the wedding. Her father, however, still refuses to reveal the name of the happy man, and when he retires, Paul reappears, and hands Eliza the letter he had forgotten, which proves to be from Frank, announcing his return that day; but he gets no thanks, and goes away under the impression that Harry is the nephew.

He proceeds to the inn, where he indulges his propensity for prying, and Doubledot shows in Frank, whom Paul

astonishes with the intelligence that Mr. Hardy is at home, and he determines to go to the house as a stranger. The colonel is hearing from Willis and Marian their discovery of Mrs. Subtle's intentions towards Witherdon, and of a quarrel between her and Grasp, who threatened to expose their schemes against his nephew, and intimated he had retained some of the letters. They retire while the colonel informs Harry and the two girls that he has reason to believe (from a letter he has received from Mr. Stanley) that a certain person is cruising under false colours, whom he intends to humour, and then take him by surprise. "And if he should confess?" asks Harry, to which he replies, "Why, then, I should say, 'Take my daughter, and may you be happy.'" Harry takes Eliza's hand, and an explanation is imminent, when Simon announces Mr. Paul Pry.

He comes to tell the colonel that an adventurer, who was astonished to hear Mr. Frank had arrived, is on his way to visit him; on hearing which Phœbe disappears, while Paul is simply warned to hold his tongue, and Eliza is informed that the stranger is the person she is to marry. Phœbe returns to tell her and Harry that the visitor is Frank, and she has prepared him. He arrives, and they discuss the situation, which Eliza suggests must be solved by a runaway match; but the colonel, who has written to Witherdon, enters, and, addressing Frank as the gentleman who wishes to see his pictures, introduces his daughter, and Harry as his nephew; he also invites him to dine, and to use no ceremony in mentioning anything that displeases him. Phœbe comes to say that Grasp begs an interview with the colonel, and then tells Eliza her intended has arrived, but he's fifty! Harry is anxious to confront him, but Frank undertakes to vanquish the dragon. Mrs. Subtle has secured the suppressed letters, which she is about to destroy, when she sees some one and retreats, followed by Paul with a fishing-rod. Frank enters with Mr. Stanley and Phœbe, and recognising Paul, taxes him with revealing his secret; but he hurries off to recover something which Mrs. Subtle has apparently lost. Mr. Stanley then consents to relinquish his share in the arrangement respecting the colonel's daughter, believing she loves

another; and he and Frank adjourn to the inn. Phœbe still thinks the elderly gentleman is the chosen bridegroom, and tries to remember Harry's song, "Cherry Ripe." Mrs. Subtle is relieved that the papers are destroyed, and is inclined to rebel against Witherdon's request that she will recall Willis and Marian; but the colonel comes to know why they have been dismissed, and reproaches his friend for his treatment of his nephew, telling him that Grasp has confessed everything. Mrs. Subtle declares it is the revenge of disappointed hope, and denies her complicity. He goes to fetch his proofs, and returns to charge her with breaking open his desk. Witherdon believes her and dismisses him; but Paul Pry comes in with the letters, which he has fished out of a dry well into which he saw her drop them. Witherdon is now convinced, she scorns to reply, and the colonel bids him be reconciled to his injured nephew and his wife, whom he calls in, Mrs. Subtle remarking that she hopes the fortune she has missed may carry misery wherever it is bestowed. Frank brings the colonel a letter from Mr. Stanley, breaking off his engagement relating to his son's marriage, but he still mistakes him for Harry; and, when his old friend comes to call upon Witherdon, attacks him for countenancing his son's refusal to marry Eliza. Her entrance, however, with her lover clears up all misunderstandings, and Phœbe offers her services as housekeeper to Witherdon, if she loses her place as lady's-maid; but he declares he has now found his refuge for life in his nephew and Marian, and Paul Pry is invited to dine with the colonel, on condition that he restrains his inquisitiveness.

THE HUNCHBACK.

By J. SHERIDAN KNOWLES; written 1832.

Principal Characters.

LORD TINSEL.
SIR THOMAS CLIFFORD.
MASTER WALTER, *a hunchback, afterwards* EARL OF ROCHDALE.
MASTER WILFORD, *supposed heir to the Earldom.*
MASTER HEARTWELL.
MODUS, *a collegian.*
FATHOM, *Julia's servant.*
THOMAS, *Heartwell's servant.*
STEPHEN, *Sir Thomas Clifford's servant.*
WILLIAMS, *Master Wilford's servant.*
GAYLOVE, HOLDWELL, SIMPSON, } *friends of Wilford.*
JULIA, *Master Walter's daughter.*
HELEN, *Heartwell's daughter.*

Waiter, servants, etc.

Period, 1750. *Localities: London and Lancashire.*

WILFORD is drinking with his friends at a tavern, in the same room with Clifford, and has just told them of his expected succession to an earldom, when Walter, the agent of the estate, arrives and accosts him as the Earl of Rochdale. They agree to carouse till midnight, and Walter quarrels with them for their want of respect to the dead; but Sir Thomas intervenes, and they retire. Walter admits Clifford has done him a good turn against his will, and congratulates him on the training he has undergone for his present rank and wealth, telling him it is time he chose a wife, and invites him to be introduced to a consort fit for a king.

Julia tells Helen that at her unknown father's bidding she is wedded to a country life, but her friend predicts that within a year she will be leading a town one, and, as they are talking of Master Walter, he arrives in a carriage with a stranger. Fathom summons Julia, and, as she goes, Helen promises to be her bridesmaid. Walter orders the carriage, that they may all go to town, telling Helen her father has invited Julia to stay at his house, and that her cousin Modus is in London; but she pretends to be more interested in hearing about the new-comer. Clifford follows Julia into a room, declaring his love; she coquets with him, but is meditating on his title and fortune, when they are interrupted by Helen and Walter, who intimates his readiness to be Sir Thomas's friend, and a letter found in the dead earl's desk is brought to him. He informs Julia it is her father's wish she should see the world, and, entrusting her and Helen to Clifford's escort, leaves them to attend to business connected with his late master's will.

Thomas discusses with Fathom how Julia has changed since she came to town, and her fanciful moods with her dressmaker; he also learns that she has fixed her wedding-day. Walter returns, and, telling Heartwell that long-hidden wrong has come to light, is anxious to hear news of Julia. Her host replies that the country maid has become a town lady, and that Clifford is evidently pained. He enters with Modus, whom he tells that he doubts her love, and is advised to come to an understanding at once; but he lacks courage, and listens to her talk with Helen. He overhears her say she means to wed because she has promised, but that she intends to indulge in continual gaiety, and a wardrobe, regardless of expense, besides which she will assert her rank wherever she goes. Her lover comes forward, and tells her she may outshine her title in the wearing of it, but that on the day that weds them he bids her farewell forever. Stephen hands him a letter addressed "To Master Clifford, now styled Sir Thomas," on reading which he bids him wind up his household affairs, and have his trunks conveyed to an inn, as he returns home no more. Remarking that misfortune liketh company, he meets Walter, who charges him with having never loved his

ward, and challenges him. Clifford replies that the grievance is on his side, and hands him the letter, which announces that the cousin, on the report of whose death he assumed his title, is living. Walter proposes they shall seek some quieter spot, adding that he heeds not fortune's slight, but a noble lady has been wronged by him, and he shall own her as free from flaw, and fair as ever Nature's cunning hand turned out.

Lord Rochdale informs his friend Lord Tinsel that he has proposed for Julia through his agent, Walter, who is her guardian, and they sneer at Clifford's rivalry. Lord Tinsel then gives his lordship and Williams a lesson as to being at home to callers, causing him to be denied to two old acquaintances, but a Newmarket jockey to be shown into the drawing-room ; also a petition for subscriptions to a book of poetry to be returned without answer, while he secures six guineas from him for tickets for a concert patronised by one of his lady friends. Walter is examining the earl's title-deeds, and Julia enters, giving vent to her vexation that it will go abroad Clifford has cast her off, and at having refused a lord. Walter tells her the lord has proposed again, and that her father approves of him, bidding her write that she is content. Left alone, she is glad 'tis done, and resolves Clifford shall know that his slight was her advancement ; but, at the thought of being lost to him for ever, she is moved to tears. Helen comes to tell her of Sir Thomas's reverse of fortune, but is reproached for making fun of it ; and when Modus joins them, and indulges in disparaging comments on him, she takes his part, and extols his noble nature. To their astonishment, Walter returns with the new marriage deeds, but she deprecates such cruel fatal haste. A letter is brought to her from Clifford, but he snatches it from her, and tears it, bidding them all prepare to follow his lordship to his castle in Lancashire, and telling Julia she will play my lady countess like a queen.

Helen has been wandering through the rooms of the castle, and being left alone, resolves to plague her cousin. He enters reading Ovid's "Art of Love," which she knocks out of his hand, telling him love comes not with art, and

gives him a lesson; she also taxes him with a love affair at college, and, pretending that he squeezes her hand, disarranges his ruff, and runs away. He wonders what she meant, and, remembering that faint heart never won fair lady, resolves to woo his cousin. Walter shows Julia the banqueting room, pointing out its rich decorations, but she sighs, and answers in monosyllables; then he tells her the story in the tapestry of the bridal chamber, of a page who loved a princess, and was put in fetters in a dungeon, but she released and married him. Julia exclaims, "Weigh love against the world," to which Walter replies, "Who wisely wed, wed happily." A servant announces my lord's secretary with a letter for her ladyship; but Julia objects to see him. Walter, however, warns her that "receding were disgrace"; and, left alone, she owns her love for him who never can be hers. Clifford enters in a secretary's attire, and presents the letter kneeling; she recognises his voice, but dares not look up. At last she makes an effort, and asks, "Know I you?" He replies, "What I am I have not always been," and begs a reply for his lordship. She rings for writing materials, and bids him be seated. Unable to maintain his deferential tone, he opens his heart to her, and, after vainly struggling against her love for him, she listens to his assurance that the intended nuptials can be shunned with honour. Walter enters, indignant at his treason; but she promises to avail herself of any way of escape he may indicate, and he takes his leave, telling her that no hand but his shall place the wedding-ring on her finger, while Walter leads her away.

Fathom tells Helen that if his mistress marries the lord she will break her heart, and that he is sorry he refused to convey a letter from her to Clifford, but he fears to offend Walter. Bribed, however, with the promise of a better place, he undertakes to help Julia to escape, and arranges to lock him in the library. Walter overhears the plot, and when Helen avows it, tells her she shall be married to her cousin Modus, who enters. She bids him hold her, pretending to faint, and invents a story which leads him on to declare his love, and they retire to prepare

for the altar. Julia is in despair at not hearing from Clifford, when two servants come to announce that her wedding toilet waits, and hand her a case of jewels; but she sends them away, loathing the link to which she seems condemned. Walter enters to hasten her preparations, and she entreats him to show her some way of avoiding the marriage, foreshadowing the direst consequences if compelled to complete her ruin, and warning him to choose between her rescue and her grave. He replies that he has loved her as well as if he were her father, watching her growth in knowledge and goodness from childhood to womanhood, securing her a suitable lover, and leaving her, when summoned away, an affianced bride; but only to find, on his return, the hopes and toils of years scattered as a sea-built tower by a tempest. A servant reminds them that the guests are arriving, and he asks her if she has forgotten that she has a father, to which she answers that he has been as such to her in all but the name, and begs him not to chide her. He reminds her, however, that a promise admits not of release, save by consent or forfeiture, and she consents to confront the bridegroom and trust to his honour. Heartwell tells Walter that his child is bent to do her father's will, and is promised he shall know shortly what took his friend out of town. The wedding party assembles, and Lord Tinsel inquires why the bride is not presented. Walter intimates that if 'tis her will to wed, his lordship is free to take her. She replies—"My hand without my heart," and implores him to release her, confessing she loves his secretary, against whom she rebelled in frowardness alone. Lord Tinsel remarks it is a question of marrying, and not of hearts; but Clifford claims her, and Walter, reminding Julia she has a father, declares that the nuptials are stopped. Lord Tinsel tells his lordship he should not have a hunchback for an agent, to which Walter retorts, "Thought like my father, who would not have a hunchback for his son," and produces the late earl's will, constituting him, in case his heir should die without a son—which has happened—the successor to the title and rent-roll; at the same time acknowledging Julia as his daughter. Fathom brings word that Helen and her cousin were eloping, but

are caught, and the new earl intercedes for them. He also consoles the supposed earl by telling him the succession will eventually fall to him; and, giving Clifford Julia's hand, tells her that she shall hear anon his motives for dropping the title of her father; but the nuptials wait, the happy close of a hard trial, wholesome though severe, and so—

> "The world won't cheat thee now, thy heart is proved,
> Thou know'st thy peace by finding out its bane,
> And ne'er will act from reckless impulse more."

ION.

By T. N. TALFOURD; written 1835.

Principal Characters.

ADRASTUS, *King of Argos.*
MEDON, *high priest.*
CRYTHES, *captain of the royal guard.*
PHOCION, *Medon's son.*
CTESIPHON, CASSANDER, } *Argive youths.*
ION, *a foundling, and afterwards Adrastus' son.*

AGENOR, CLEON, TIMOCLES, } *sages of Argos.*
IRUS, *slave to Agenor.*

CLEMANTHE, *Medon's daughter.*
ABRA, *her attendant.*

Period, 430 B.C. *Locality: Argos in Greece.*

AGENOR is in the temple of Apollo, longing for the dawn, and sends Irus to a rocky shelf to watch for the first streak of the rising sun, while he meditates on the plague which is wafting death through the city. The boy returns, saying the eastern sky is still unbroken gloom, and the sage, noticing he has been weeping, elicits that his brother died but yesterday in his arms. Cleon enters, and is comforted to find Agenor unstricken; he replies he would rather be where death may be embraced, but has promised not to depart without the high priest's leave. Cleon remarks that the gates are barred against all but the youth Ion, whom Agenor extols as their stray gift from Heaven, whose loving nature expands like the rainbow-tints of the flower from the seed. Cleon, however, fancies that a thoughtful sadness dwells in his eyes, and Agenor is hopeful that he is selected by the gods to be the avenger of the tyrant who has drawn down their resentment on Argos. Timocles joins them, indignant at having been prevented from passing through the gate by Ion, who follows, imploring his pardon, but begs him to use his professed weariness of life to awaken some heroic leader to thrill the world with echoes! 'Tis morning, and Medon, as he enters

the temple, predicts that help is at hand, but achieved in blood; and Ion, sickening at the word, tells him of the frantic king's night-long revels, mocking the anguish around him; at the same time suggesting there must live some pulse of good within his nature. Medon believes he felt their sufferings when he sent Phocion to consult the oracle at Delphi; but he now threatens death to whoever unbidden meets his glance. The sages offer to brave it, but Ion begs that he may be sent, and, with Medon's blessing, he departs, asking for a parting word with Clemanthe. "His bearing is so altered," Abra tells her mistress, and she feels sure he will be reclaimed by noble parents and forget them all. He enters, and she reproaches him with risking his life among strangers; but he recounts the sorrows he has soothed, and tells her of the lot which has now fallen upon him. She betrays her love, and he receives it with joy, but adds that he has pledged his honour and asks her approval; she bids him go, and faints in his arms.

Crythes warns Adrastus that the air from the city may bear infection with it, but he replies that he feels his doom is nigh, and, as the heritor of a great race of kings, he will meet it as befits their fame. A soldier reports that a youth, with a message from the sages, seeks an audience, heedless of his last decree. Abusing them as traitors, he commands that he be told again if he persists he dies, and, should he hold to his purpose, that Crythes be ordered to conduct him, and to summon the headsman. They enter, and Adrastus, pointing to the preparations for decapitating him, at which Ion is unmoved, gives him the option of departing without uttering his thoughts; but Ion asks to be heard for the lives of thousands, and will then be content to speak no more. The king, impressed with his bravery, orders Crythes to retire until the approaching hour is shadowed on the dial; and Ion, begging he will hearken to his people's cry, entreats him to let the memory of his childhood whisper pity. Adrastus replies his youth was despoiled of innocence and hope; but, as Ion recalls a time when his heart, in sympathy with one, grew bountiful to all, he recognises a long-hushed voice, and is strangely moved. He narrates to his visitor how his doom was sealed by a mysterious

utterance at his birth, and when a younger brother, who became his parent's hope, fell from a crag and died, it was rumoured that he slew him. With a bursting heart he fled to the mountains, and there succour came to him in the vision of a lovely maid whom he married; but his father's spies tracked him just as a son was born, whom he still yearns to embrace once more; the child, however, was dashed by them over a rock, and the mother, whose look he sees again in Ion's face, died. Crythes enters, but is bidden begone; and Adrastus, in compliance with Ion's request, promises to confer with the sages in an hour; when left alone, however, the dream which melted him fades away, and he is again a king. Abra is urging Clemanthe to retire from the temple to her chamber, but she is rapt in thought; Agenor comes to tell her hope dawns in every omen; Medon enters with the other sages, when, hearing Ion's footsteps, she rushes to welcome him, bidding them rejoice that they are guiltless of his blood, and leaves them. Ion reports the result of his mission, and Medon trusts that, now the seal of greatness is upon him, he will not spurn his lowly playmate. Ctesiphon interrupts them with the news that Phocion has returned, and he brings Apollo's answer, which he must first utter to the king. Ctesiphon tells him of Adrastus having caused his father's death, and of his thirst for revenge, which Phocion replies is at hand; but Ion begs them, if he meets the council with penitence, to show him grace. He bids the assembled sages make known their pleasure; Agenor asks is his heart dead to the sounds and sights of misery around him; the king replies that he has no power to turn aside the shafts of fate, but that he can still punish insult, and the royalty of Argos shall pass in festal blaze to darkness! Shouts are heard, and Phocion, rushing, in, refuses to do homage, and reads from a scroll:—

> "Argos ne'er shall find release,
> Till her monarch's race shall cease."

Adrastus commands the soldiers to seize him, but Ion interposes, and, disregarding his entreaty that he will resign

his state and sue the gods for life, the king retires to his palace, bidding them utter treason till they perish. Medon and the councillors withdraw to sacrifice, while Ctesiphon and Phocion agree to meet with a knife at sunset, and Ion, appalled at the king's doom, prays that it may his duty be to suffer—not to strike!

Clemanthe strives to dispel the sorrow resting on Ion's brow, but he tells her it is caused by dark presages within, and that, as he passed the statues of the Argive monarchs, they hailed him as "Ion the devoted"; adding that he who cleanses his country from its guilt should be pure of soul. She exclaims, 'tis thyself, and then, shuddering at the thought, she offers to walk with him to chase it away; but, promising to be merrier when they meet again, he says farewell, and she resolves to follow him. He has reached a wood, where he was found when an infant, and hears Ctesiphon tell Cassander and Phocion he has learnt from a soldier that Adrastus is in a heavy sleep, and his guard unarmed. They agree to decide by lot which of them shall strike the blow, when Ion comes forward, saying the gods have prompted him to join them, and his name is the first drawn. They hand him the knife, and, as he remarks that the king has neither brother nor child, they remember rumours of an infant having been found and strangely vanishing, but which were disregarded. Ion dedicates his arm to the deed, and, concealing the weapon, asks to be left alone for a moment. Just then Clemanthe appears, and endeavours to lead him home; she sees the knife and asks its purpose, but is told she will know full soon, and his companions call him away. She guesses his errand, and hesitates whether to interpose, but decides she has a hero's love, and it is her duty to trust him. Medon is questioning Abra where his daughter is, when Irus brings a scroll written by his long absent kinsman on his deathbed, followed by Clemanthe, to whom her father reads its contents, which reveal that Ion is the king's son; and, sharing her fears, the high priest hastens by a secret passage to the palace.

Adrastus is still asleep on a couch, when Ion approaches with trembling steps and awakens him; he shouts for his

guards, while Ion bids him prepare, for his hour is come; and the king kneels, begging him to strike without averting his face, which again reminds him of one who is waiting for him beyond the grave. Ion has raised his arm, when Medon rushes in, and bids Adrastus behold his son! He hesitates, but then he recognises the lineaments and voice of her who made him happy once, and exclaims, "It is my child!" A noise is heard and they retire, leaving Medon to explain matters to Ctesiphon and his companions; but the youth follows the king, and, as Crythes enters with soldiers, rushes back with a dagger, shouting, "It is accomplished." As they seize him, Adrastus comes in mortally wounded, supported by Ion, and commands them to release their prisoner. Alone with his son, he bids him win back the favour of the gods for his stricken people, and, with his dying breath, blesses him as the King of Argos. Ion conceals the knife in his dress, and Agenor comes to say that the sages are waiting to greet him. Phocion is lingering impatiently at the city gate, when Ctesiphon brings the news; and, reminding him that their oath included the king's race, adds, now is the time to do his part. Phocion recoils from the thought of killing the comrade of his youth; "but fate commands, and he lives but to perform her bidding." Agenor begs Ion to seek some rest, but he prefers remaining in the palace garden; and, sending the sage to hasten the rites confirming him on his throne, calmly resolves to tread the path of duty, when Phocion strikes at him with a dagger. He, however, disarms his assailant, telling him, if he fails in that his country needs, then to use his steel, and cheering him with reminiscences of their boyhood.

The soldiers on guard are commenting on the new king's hurry to seize the show of power, when he enters, and sends them to assist in the preparations. Phocion comes to entreat him to forego his purpose, and Agenor, interrupting them to inquire who shall be bidden to the feast, is told to provide large store for those palsied by hunger. Then he speaks of Clemanthe, when Cleon enters to ask about the games; and, while he begs Phocion to soothe her sorrow by disparaging him, Cassander comes to offer his congratula-

tions, and is given a ring. The time has now arrived for the sacrificial rites, and they proceed to the temple. There Clemanthe despairingly awaits her lover, and when he coldly asks her, "What wouldst thou, lady?" she entreats his pardon for her bright dream, which has vanished, and he bids her forget it. She pleads why should a crown divide them, and he replies that dark and lonely must be his path, and, meanwhile time will bring her repose. They embrace, and Agenor conducts him to the sacrifice. Cassander reproaches Ctesiphon, as the procession is approaching, for his hard thoughts of Ion, whom Medon leads to the throne, and he deputes all power to Agenor. Summoning Crythes, he grants him and his comrades the means to seek for glory in some distant land, telling them that Argos no longer needs their services, as the future safeguards of the city will be the honest hearts of her citizens, and their children's sinews made firm by heroic sports. Turning to Medon, he asks him still to befriend the stranger, and sometimes think of the inmate of his home. Then he craves, as a boon from all, that, when he dies, they will rule themselves, without a king, by simple laws, which will ensure mutual sympathy in times of quiet, and fill them with resistless impulse against foreign foes. They swear it; and, approaching the altar unattended, he offers up his life for his country's welfare, and stabs himself. Ctesiphon raises him, and declares the wish for vengeance is plucked from his heart; Clemanthe rushes forward to claim her right to cling to him now; and when Irus brings word that the pestilence abates, Ion springs to his feet, rejoicing that the curse brought upon Argos by his ancestry is dispelled, and dies.

THE LOVE CHASE.

By J. Sheridan Knowles; written 1837.

Principal Characters.

Sir William Fondlove.
Master Wildrake, *a Lincolnshire Squire.*
Master Waller, *in love with Lydia.*
Master Trueworth, Master Neville, Master Humphreys, } *Waller's friends.*
Chargewell, *an innkeeper.*
George, *his servant.*

Lash, *Wildrake's servant.*
Stephen, *Waller's servant.*
Widow Green.
Constance, *Sir William's daughter.*
Lydia, *(Trueworth's sister)*, Amelia, } *Widow Green's maids.*
Phœbe, *Constance's maid.*
Alice, *Waller's old servant.*

Lawyers, bridemen, bridesmaids, servants, etc.

Period 1800. *Locality: London.*

THE innkeeper rouses his sleepy servants, ordering them not to let his guests cool over their liquor, and to be careful, above all, to please Master Waller, who has a deep purse with easy strings. He is drinking with his friends, and tells Wildrake he cannot share his love for hunting, to which Neville replies that things please or pain according to the thought we take of them, and hints that Waller, on pretence of kindness to the widow, is hunting her maid; they agree she is a miracle of virtue as well as beauty, and Trueworth suggests she may turn out a wife, adding that he might do worse. Waller draws his sword, but is pacified, and Trueworth explains he once had a sister, whom he would forget, and their conversation reminded him of her. Wildrake informs them that he has come to town to see his country neighbours, Sir William and his daughter, remarking to himself that, if Constance treats him as is her custom, he shall return home at once, and they sally forth. Sir William resolves he will marry again, rather than submit any longer to his daughter's commands, and welcomes Trueworth, who encourages his belief that,

although on the downhill side of life, he wears marvellously well. He talks of his love for the widow, adding that his daughter must be wedded first, but she says nay to all her suitors. Trueworth suggests Wildrake, but her voice is heard refusing him a kiss, and, when they enter, she laughs at his dress, and having been thrown from his horse. She, however, carries him off, and Trueworth adopts her father's guess that perhaps their discords are subtle servitors to harmony, offering to pretend to Wildrake that he is in love with Constance, in order to awaken his appreciation of her. Sir William agrees, and retires, as they return, to call her away while he talks to Wildrake, who comes in declaring he is off to Lincolnshire. Trueworth asks, "Why so soon?" and Constance replies that he is lost in town, rallying him, as she hears her father's summons, about his dogs and country friends, and bidding him drink her health, and tell them she is the fairest, kindest, best of neighbours.

Telling his friend he knows her not, Trueworth hints that he is in love with her, and, dilating on her charms, makes Wildrake feel strange; but he undertakes to act as proxy for him. Left alone, however, he becomes aware that he objects to any man being in love with neighbour Constance and vows he will leave nought undone to conquer her. Lash comes to say his horse is ready, but is told to put it up and fetch a tailor; also that he does not want the mare he meant to buy, but some samples from the hosier; and, instead of a kennel of dogs, a first-rate shoemaker. Lydia evasively leads the widow to think that Waller is in love with her, and is told that she encourages Sir William just to excite his jealousy, not that she cares for him, but because he is the fashion, and her wit in running him will be talked of by every one. Lydia feels sure she never knew what real love is, and suspects not that it is her maid whom Waller comes to see; she admits he has vanquished her, but fears that he loves not honestly. Constance has disguised herself, and sends Phœbe to tell Wildrake a lady wishes to speak with him. Wondering at his fashionable attire, she intimates that souls attract souls, that she delights in hunting, admires the music of the hounds, and loves the revelry of vigour, health, and joy. He replies that fancies change, and he has

forsworn the sportsman's life, and become a town gentleman, confessing—

> "I, that did hunt the game, am caught myself
> In chase I never dreamt of!"

and retires. She is satisfied he is in love, and determines to find out the vixen who has set her cap at him! Trueworth comes in, and suggests it may be the Widow Green, which greatly excites her, and, declaring she cannot spare neighbour Wildrake, says, "She must not marry him."

Lydia tells Waller that love bestoweth all it hath, and not wedding doth profane the name of love; but he says he must humour old family notions about wealth and station; to which she replies that she loves him, but he has insulted her, and she will ne'er behold him more. The widow enters unnoticed, and, hearing him exclaim, "Enchanting woman!" and dilate on Lydia's perfections, vainly imagines that he is thinking of her; and when she addresses him he is speechless, which she attributes to want of courage, and decides she must help him to declare himself. Sir William, however, interrupts them, for which Waller is thankful, while she wishes he had the gout; but she flatters him, hoping to work upon Waller's feelings, who, however, gladly escapes while he is telling her the story of a ring she has noticed on his finger. His departure spoils her game, and, refusing to listen to Sir William's explanations, she declares he has blighted her fairest hopes, and orders him to leave her for ever. Misapprehending the cause of the furious tempest he has raised, he believes she is madly in love with him, and resolves to calm it by marrying her without delay; while she sends Lydia with a note to Waller placing her hand and heart at his disposal. Unable to get from Wildrake the name of his lady-love, Constance ridicules his fashionable clothes and company manners, leaving him in doubt "whether she is into hate or madness fallen"; and then, fearing she has gone too far, feels inclined to cry, not admitting to herself that she is in love with him, but only that she will not have him marry.

A clashing of swords is heard, and Alice calls Stephen to

defend his master, who is attacked for protecting a maid. Waller brings in Lydia fainting, and Alice, examining her feet and hands, declares they vouch for high temper, affection, and apprehension, far above the generality. She revives, and, handing him the widow's note, thanks him for saving her from a man who would have carried her off, and rises to go. He entreats her to remain, and at last, acknowledging he has won her heart, she consents to allow him an hour to decide whether he means honourably towards her. Trueworth comforts Wildrake by telling him he believes that Constance loves him, and suggests that to make sure he should affect to love another; he agrees, and bids his friend be a man, and conquer his passion for her! Phœbe brings Trueworth a delayed letter from his sister, which sets his mind at rest respecting her; and Waller comes to ask him to be the bearer of a note to one who has cause to thank him, saying he is willing to marry her, and, if she consents, to act as her father. Constance declares to herself she will pine to death for no man, and dries her eyes as Wildrake enters; he tells her he is about to marry, and asks her to be bridesmaid, and to fix the day; she replies, "Doomsday!" and, boxing his ears, bids him give his bride that from her. She adds he need not vainly think she is jealous, but begs that they may be strangers henceforth, and that he will not send her cake or gloves. Wishing the lady joy, she takes her leave, and he remarks—"She is a riddle, solve her he who can!"

Sir William is engaged with two lawyers, who wish him happy nuptials as they retire, and he sends for his daughter and Wildrake, who come in both looking sad. Phœbe announces the coach, and Constance refuses his arm, saying she will walk, and live, and die alone. Widow Green is at her toilet, and reads a letter similarly worded to that which Waller wrote to Lydia. She wonders to Amelia what has become of that hussy, who left without a moment's warning with a gentleman; but she pardons her for having left behind her the advice of Master Waller's wishes. The bridesmaids arrive, and, a servant having announced that the bridegroom is come, they go to receive him. Sir William enters the widow's drawing-room with Constance and Wild-

rake, boasting that he feels every atom what a man should be, and surprised that his friend does not smile and rally him. He says the widow returned three notes he sent her unopened, but, finding she was preparing for the wedding, he took the way to make her love him, and advises Wildrake to borrow a hint from him. She comes in without raising her eyes, feeling the beams of the bridegroom's are on her; Sir William addresses her, kneeling, and kisses her hand; but, recognising his voice, she calls him a fool, and asks, "When did a woman wed her grandfather?" Waller arrives with bridemen, and inquires for the bride; the widow replies, "Here!" but he bids her not to mock him; she produces the letter, which he tells her was addressed to her maid; he is informed she eloped with the gentlemen who brought his *billet doux;* and, suspecting Trueworth has supplanted him, taxes him with treachery, when he leads in Lydia closely veiled. He admits he took the maid away, and, as her state is changed, he cannot give her back; but, in place of her, he offers another who is her image in every respect, except that she is gently born and bred. Waller demands her sole equivalent, to which Trueworth replies that he offers his sister, long counted lost—now found, who fled to escape an unwelcome match, and, removing her veil, presents Lydia. She apologises to the widow, who forgives her, and accepts Sir William; while Trueworth reconciles Wildrake and Constance, and all ends happily with a triple wedding.

THE LADY OF LYONS.

By Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer; written 1838.

Principal Characters.

Monsieur Beauseant, *a rich gentleman of Lyons.*
Monsieur Glavis, *his friend.*
Colonel (*afterwards* General) Damas, *cousin to Madame Deschappelles.*
Monsieur Deschappelles, *a Lyonnese merchant.*
Claude Melnotte, *a gardener's son.*
Landlord *of Golden Lion.*
Gaspar, *a villager.*
Madame Deschappelles.
Pauline, *her daughter.*
The Widow Melnotte, *Claude's mother.*
Janet, *innkeeper's daughter.*
Marian. *Pauline's maid.*

French officers, notary, servants, etc.

Period, 1795—98. *Locality: Lyons.*

MADAME is praising her daughter's beauty, and telling her she is born to make a great marriage, as Marian arranges her hair, and she wonders who sends her such beautiful flowers, when M. Beauseant is announced, and her mother exclaims—Pauline, this is another offer! He enters, and condescendingly begs her acceptance of his hand and heart, which she declines, and madame adds that if he were still a marquis he might have been accepted. As he leaves, Damas enters, and hints to Pauline that Glavis is in love with her, at which her mother is indignant, and he suggests that perhaps she intends her daughter to marry a prince, congratulating himself, as they leave the room, that he is still a bachelor. Beauseant confesses to Glavis, at the village inn, that Pauline has refused him, and, eliciting that she has also rejected an offer from his friend, they resolve to humble her. As they are ordering dinner, shouts are heard of "Long live the Prince!" and the landlord tells them Claude has just won the shooting prize; adding that his father left him well-to-do, and that he is learning fencing and painting, and has become the pride of the village; moreover, that he is in love with Pauline! They agree to

revenge themselves by enabling Claude to personate a foreign prince and propose to her, and send him a note. The widow meets her son as he is brought home in triumph, and attempts to convince him of the folly of his ambitious thoughts, and that his lady-love will never think of him. He uncovers a picture of her which he has painted from memory, and tells his mother that she wears the flowers he sends her, and that he has now sent her some verses, and is hoping for a favourable answer. Gaspar, his messenger, brings back the verses, and complains that they were returned to him with blows. Claude scatters them to the winds, vowing he will insult her, when the landlord arrives with Beauseant's note, promising the realisation of his hopes, and he goes to learn more, wondering whether he is prompted by revenge or love.

He has been introduced as the Prince of Como to the Deschappelles, who have promised him the hand of Pauline, and Beauseant and Glavis are arranging that the wedding must take place without delay, as madame approaches with Damas, followed by the lovers. Claude admires the gardens, and is told they were planned by a man named Melnotte, whose son has presumed to write verses to Pauline, while Damas is reproved for hinting at a likeness between the young man and the prince, who presents mother and daughter with the snuff-box and ring lent him by his patrons. The colonel addresses him in Italian, and, being laughed at for not pronouncing it properly, challenges him and retires, followed by Beauseant and Glavis. Madame apologises for her cousin's rudeness, and leaves Pauline with the prince, who describes his palace at Como to her, and she assures him that had he spoken of poverty instead of luxury, it would have made him even more dear to her. His patrons return, and she retires, upon which Claude begs to be released from his oath, but is warned that unless he marrys her he will be sent to gaol as a swindler, and they go to carry out their plot. Damas then comes back with two swords, and is disarmed by Claude, who returns his weapon, and intimates that he may ask a favour of him some day. Madame and Beauseant re-enter with a letter, and tell the prince he is suspected of designs against the

Republic, and must escape. Pauline comes in with her father, who offers to go to the magistrate's, but is told that the only thing to be done is to send for a priest, that the marriage may take place at once. He deprecates such haste, but is silenced by his wife, and Beauseant undertakes to arrange for the ceremony and order a carriage, which madame begs may have six horses. Claude detains Pauline as they retire, asking if she has no fear, to which her reply is that in joy or sorrow she is by his side, and Damas bids him make her as happy as if she were not to be a princess.

The marriage has taken place, and the carriage breaks down at the *Golden Lion*. The landlord laughs at Claude's pretended rank, and orders Janet to see to the supper, while the plotters chuckle. Claude enters and bids them begone, throwing away the purse which Beauseant hands him. Pauline comes to complain of the servants' rudeness, wondering how they and the landlord have learnt their rank, and Claude leads her to his mother's cottage. She is expecting them, and Pauline cannot understand her affectionate reception, or her husband's confusion. The widow tells her who he is, and leaves them; but she laughs incredulously, and asks how she has sinned against him that he should crush her thus? He replies—by pride, and tells her how he had loved her since his boyhood, and sought to rise from his mean estate, if not to win, to be more worthy of her, until she scorned his verses, and made his soul a chaos. She shudders at having loved a serf, and bids him touch her not. But he assures her that his vengeance ceased at the altar, that their marriage is null and void, and to-morrow she shall return to her father's arms; meanwhile, he begs his mother to treat her as their honoured guest.

Claude has been listening all night to her sobs, and, relieved that they have at last ceased, resolves to place his consent to their divorce in her father's hands, and then ask his country to accept the peasant son's services, his mother telling him he has been led astray, but not hardened, and he promises her he will win back a proud conscience and an honest name. She endeavours to console Pauline, who exclaims—"If he were but a poor gentleman, or a merchant,

—but a gardener's son! Oh, no, it is too dreadful!" Beauseant enters the cottage, and, sending the widow away, invites Pauline to fly with him. Claude, however, returns, and protects her, denouncing the intruder as a trickster and coward, and taking a final embrace as she faints in his arms. The widow returns to say that her parents are coming, and Pauline tries to induce Claude to ask her to remain with him; but they enter with the colonel, who taunts the noble prince, and madame indulges in a volley of abusive epithets against him, while he gives back his bride to her father, and bids them all farewell. Pauline, however, falls upon his neck, and entreats him to take her; but he declares he cannot without a blush, and accepts an offer from Damas to join his regiment, asking his mother's blessing, and telling her whom he has betrayed that, if he lives, his name shall not rest dishonoured; and if he falls, his soul will fly back to her, that love may share with death his last sigh.

Two years and a half have elapsed, and three French officers are talking of gallant old Damas, who is now a general, as well as of the rapid promotion of a Colonel Morier. The general joins them, but is reticent about the colonel, and two of the officers retire. He then tells the other that Morier hopes to find a miracle, or, in other words, a constant woman. As he goes to the Deschappelles, he meets Beauseant, who inquires for Melnotte; but the general knows nothing of him. He mentions, however, that Morier has saved a handsome sum, and learns from his friend that Pauline has at length consented to marry him as soon as her divorce is settled. Deschapelles enters, and proposes to Beauseant that they shall go to the notary at once. He then welcomes his cousin, who expresses surprise at the news he has just heard, and remarks to himself that the follies of women need the tears of all the angels to blot their record out. Claude enters, pale and agitated, declaring that memory and hope alike are gone; but the general offers to take him to his cousin's house, to ascertain how matters really stand. Pauline is bemoaning that she must either be false to love, or sacrifice her father, who enters and blesses her for saving his name and credit, assuring her that

without the sum which Beauseant offers for her hand he will be ruined. Her lover, madame, Glavis, and the notary are called in, and she appeals to Beauseant to save the father and spare the child; but he adheres to the contract. Just then Damas arrives with Claude, who is introduced as Colonel Morier, and graciously received by madame; while the general elicits from Pauline her reasons for accepting Beauseant, and she begs him to advance the money, which he is unable to do. He, however, leads her to believe that the colonel is Claude's most intimate friend, to whom she may entrust a message; and, while they talk together, he pretends to madame that she is being told what a rascal Melnotte has become. Claude is hearing from Pauline's lips how deeply she is still attached to him; and her heart struggles between love and filial duty and affection, when they are interrupted by Beauseant, who is waiting for her to sign the papers. Damas, however, gives Claude the schedule of Deschapelles' debts, and when the notary hands Pauline the contract, he seizes and tears it, at the same time offering her father a pocket-book containing twice the sum he needs. She now recognises her husband's voice, and is folded in his arms, listening to his boast that he has redeemed his honour. Beauseant curses them, and retires; Deschappelles bids them be happy; and madame admits that a colonel and hero are something, and that he is wondrously improved.

MONEY.

By Lord Lytton ; written 1848.

Principal Characters.

Lord Glossmore.	Grab, *a publisher.*
Sir John Vesey.	Kite, *a horse-dealer.*
Mr. Evelyn, *his poor cousin.*	Franz, *a tailor.*
Sir Frederick Blount.	M'Finch, *a jeweller.*
Captain Dudley Smooth.	M'Stucco, *an architect.*
Mr. Graves, *a widower.*	Patent, *a coach-builder.*
Mr. Stout, *a politician.*	Tabouret, *an upholsterer.*
Mr. Sharp, *a lawyer.*	Lady Franklin, *Sir John's widowed half-sister.*
Toke, *Mr. Evelyn's servant.*	Georgina, *his daughter.*
Crimson, *a portrait painter.*	Clara, *Evelyn's cousin.*

Members of Club, servants, etc.

Period: 1840. *Locality: London.*

Sir John receives a letter from Mr Graves saying he is coming, with Mr Sharp, to read the will of Georgina's maternal uncle, and tells his daughter she will be the richest heiress in England. He proceeds to confide to her how he has obtained the reputation of being wealthy by humbug, and that, instead of Blount, she must now look out for a duke ; he also remarks what a sarcastic but useful fellow Evelyn is, and that Lady Franklin has taken Clara off his hands. They come in, and, Sir John having declined to help Evelyn's old nurse, Georgina asks her address, while Clara sends all her savings unknown to him. Sir Frederick is announced, and his attentions to Clara annoy Evelyn, who reads poetry at him, and, when he leaves, pleads for her love ; but she replies they are both too poor to marry, and he tries to cheer himself with the reflection that it is a poor heart a coquette's contempt can break. Lord Glossmore arrives, followed by Stout, and they discuss the duty of helping the poor ; then Sir John comes in with his daughter, Lady Franklin, and Blount, talking of the de-

ceased, and, Graves and Sharp having joined them, the will is read. To Stout the testator bequeaths the value of some books he sent him, deducting the carriage, which he forgot to pay; to Sir Frederick £500 for a dressing-case; to Lord Glossmore some butterflies and the family pedigree; to Sir John, for his presents of Cheltenham waters, the empty bottles; to Graves £5000; to Georgina £10,000; and the residue of his fortune to Evelyn, the only relation who never fawned on him, with a letter. He mutters: "If Clara had but loved me!" and she: "His wealth, even more than poverty, separates us for ever!" Sir John whispers to his daughter that he will be an immense match; and, as the others offer their congratulations, he begs them to lend him £10 for his old nurse, to which they all respond—"Certainly! certainly!"

Evelyn, having taken possession of a new house, is importuned by various tradesmen; and then by Stout and Lord Glossmore on behalf of the rival candidates for the borough in which he has just bought some property. He remarks to Sharp on the worship of gold, and tells Graves, who comes to visit him, that he is miserable. He confides to his friend that, when a poor sizar at college, he was expelled for horse-whipping a young lord who had insulted him, and submitted to become Sir John's gentleman-lackey in order to be near Clara; he also reads the letter from his relative, who suggests either her or Georgina as his wife. Graves thinks that, although Clara rejected him when he was poor, she would accept him now; but he declares that he detests her, and believes it was Georgina who sent the money anonymously to his old nurse; adding, however, that he has bribed Sharp to say that the letter contained a codicil in Clara's favour for £20,000. Graves suggests that she may have sent the money; and, hinting at his partiality towards Lady Franklin, they go together to call on her ladyship. She is telling Clara of having made a conquest of him, in spite of his sainted Maria still haunting him; and that since her legacy every one admires her, but she is certain that Evelyn loves her. Clara, however, makes her promise, in Sir John's hearing, not to reveal her secret about the money, and retires. Georgina enters, and, her father having elicited

that she had the address, Graves and Evelyn are announced. Lady Franklin makes her melancholy admirer laugh, while Georgina and her father whisper about a portrait she has taken of Evelyn, and Smooth arrives. Sir John hints to Evelyn that he cheats at cards, and introduces them to each other. Then Blount comes in, and, talking with Evelyn, tells him Sir John has shuffled him off, intimating that his daughter had a prior attachment. Clara returns just as Sir Frederick asks his friend to intercede with her for him, and Evelyn, having satirically introduced him as a suitor, leaves them together. Sir John shows Smooth Georgina's drawings, and Evelyn looks at them, including his portrait, watching Blount's attentions to Clara; while Sir John, in her hearing, leads him to believe that Georgina sent the money; on which Clara consents to go to the opera with Sir Frederick. Evelyn, looking at her, acknowledges having loved another whom he is resolved to forget, and offers his hand and fortune to Georgina; seeing Clara, however, fainting, he rushes to her, but she bids her cousin be happy, and sinks into a chair.

Georgina tells her father Evelyn seldom comes to see her, and seems so gloomy; also her fear lest he should discover that Clara sent the letter. Sir John replies he is uneasy that he lives like a prince, and gambles with Smooth. He sends her for Clara, whom he taxes with loving Evelyn, and suggests she shall go abroad with his aunt, to which she agrees; and he goes for a drive with his daughter, leaving humbugging messages for visitors. Evelyn calls, and Clara reproaches him with the life he is leading; he replies she has robbed him of the sunshine of his life, and now cooly says, "Let us part friends"; she exclaims, "Cruel to the last," and leaves him weeping. As he asks himself "Does she love me?" Graves is announced, and advises him to stand for the vacant borough, telling him Clara has refused Sir Frederick, and adding that he has been duped into proposing to Georgina, whom he has just seen walking with the baronet. Talking of his reputation for gambling, Evelyn speaks of it as a cheap opiate; but when Graves informs him that Sir John is alarmed, he replies, "the duper may be duped, and, in the next twenty-four hours, I may bring

back the happiness of a life." His friend attributes his strange manner to the approach of the honeymoon; and a servant brings word that Lady Franklin will see Mr. Graves in her boudoir. They talk of the deceased Maria, and Sir John, Blount, and Georgina suprise them dancing together! Her ladyship runs away laughing, and he declares it's all a mistake. Lord Glossmore and Stout are at the club, talking of Evelyn having taken to play, when he comes in and sits down to piquet with Smooth. As they whisper together, Blount joins Sir John in watching their game, and bets are made with Evelyn, who plays recklessly and loses heavily, Sir John groaning and declaring that there is a conspiracy against him. At last he rises, unable to pay all he owes, and exclaiming it is ruinous. Smooth talks of buying Lord Glossmore's house and furniture for £15,000, presumably with his winnings, and presently, in spite of Sir John's remonstrances, Evelyn takes the captain home with him that they may have a night of it.

Tabouret and others are waiting at Evelyn's house, and Smooth enters, remarking that the rooms and furniture are better than Lord Glossmore's, at the same time expressing surprise that they have not been paid for, and intimating he has won them at cards. Toke tells the tradesmen he is going to obtain a passport for his master, and Evelyn, overhearing Blount tells Lord Glossmore, who has called with him, that Georgina is sacrificed by old stingy Jack her father, regrets his money is all locked up at present, but offers one a cheque for more than he owes him in exchange for his for the difference, and the other his cab horse against a loan, inviting both to dine with him to meet Smooth. They suspect all's not right, and resolve to stop their cheques, but meet Toke hurrying off to cash them. Graves calls, and learns from Evelyn that he has borrowed £500 from Sir John, who enters with Lady Franklin and Georgina, when his future son-in-law confesses he is temporarily embarrassed, and asks his intended to lend him her £10,000; she leaves it to Papa, who replies he shall have an answer to-morrow; while Georgina goes towards Sir Frederick, who comes in followed by Lord Glossmore and Smooth. Her ladyship jokes Graves at their having been interrupted, but

he begs her never to recur to it; while Smooth hints to Lord Glossmore, who has just spoken of him with contempt, that he can perhaps oblige him about the vacant borough. Stout, however, interposes on behalf of his candidate; and then Evelyn begs to consult them all, hoping he has spent his income in a way worthy of their good opininn. They all answer approvingly; but when he announces that a bank, against which his father-in-law that would be had warned him, has failed, Sir John groans, and the others mention his having borrowed of them, Stout hinting that Georgina has been very unsafely invested. Toke brings a lawyer's letter from M'Finch, and as sheriff's officer serves Evelyn with a writ from Franz. Sir John refuses to bail him, but Graves undertakes to settle the matter, and Lady Franklin declares her love for him. Evelyn makes light of his troubles, and Georgina is handed over by her father to Sir Frederick. Dinner is announced, but the invited guests fall back when asked to help the old nurse, and are bidden begone, Evelyn remarking to Graves that his scheme prospers and the duper is duped.

Next morning Lord Glossmore sounds Smooth at the club as to the real state of Evelyn's affairs, and news arrives that he has been started for the borough, just to keep himself, his lordship remarks, out of the Bench; while Sir John tells Blount that Georgina is his, and, as they talk of money matters, Smooth observes that "the more a man's worth the worthier he must be." Blount wishes she would run away with him, which would get rid of the settlements, and Stout comes in saying they have been tricked, as he has ascertained that Evelyn has paid for the property, and will be the new member. On hearing this, Sir John informs Blount that he has changed his mind, and hurries away, just as Sir Frederick remembers that Georgina has promised to meet him in the square. Graves tells Lady Franklin he is certain that Evelyn still loves Clara; they ascertain she has been to her bankers, and, when she enters, Graves tells her of Evelyn having invented the codicil, and that he still cares for her. She begs Lady Franklin to go with her to comfort him, adding that she may perhaps have enough for both. Evelyn congratulates himself that all goes well, when Graves

comes to tell him that people say everything that is bad of him; upon which he opens his heart to his friend, and explains that it has been a stratagem to prove whether Georgina loves him, or his money. Toke hands him a letter, and he exclaims, "The die is cast, the dream is over! I imagined her incapable of this devotion"; and sends a note to say he will call in an hour. Lady Franklin and Clara are announced, and, while Graves talks with the widow, Evelyn is convinced of his cousin's affection for him, but tells her he learns it too late, as he is bound in honour to another. Sir John arrives to arrange about his daughter's money, but Evelyn replies he has already received it; and, while Lady Franklin is looking for Georgina, he is informed of his election as M.P. by Sharp, from whom Sir John learns that his intended son-in-law is not ruined, and Clara is saying farewell. Georgina, however, comes in with her ladyship and Blount, and, in spite of her father's attempts to interpose, declares she has promised her hand where she has given her heart—to Sir Frederick! Lady Franklin then reveals who has paid the £10,000 to Evelyn's credit, as well as by whom the money was sent to his nurse; and, exclaiming "I am free!" he embraces Clara as his wife. Sir John is indignant; Graves is accepted by her ladyship; Lord Glossmore and Stout solicit the vote of the new member, who thanks Smooth for his help in giving them a lesson; and, as one of the requisites for happiness, when truth and love are secured, suggests "plenty of money."

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